TOPIC: LET IT SHOW!

Share Jesus by letting others see how He has changed your life.

KEY POINTS

- There are many things we tell people about ourselves without words being spoken. They may see your stethoscope, team jacket, engagement ring, police officer uniform, etc.
- Although we may be hesitant to speak to strangers, we have no problem speaking to our friends. We ask our friends questions and they ask questions of us, especially if we see something new or different in each other.
- If the Lord has changed our lives, we must let it show!
- The Lord loves to show His power in our lives. He loves to show His love and care for us through the phenomenal changes He makes in us. He loves to use us as props in His divine play to demonstrate His divinity to skeptical minds, to let the world to know that He is real.
- One day, as Jesus and His disciples entered the region of Gadara, a man possessed with a legion of demons came out from the cemetery to meet Him and talk to Him. Jesus cast the demons out of the man and restored him to his right mind.
- When the townspeople heard of it and came to see the man, they were shocked, scared, and totally confused. How on earth could this have happened? Who was this man Jesus, and how should they deal with this kind of power?
- They concluded that the best thing to do was to ask Jesus to go back to His city and leave them alone, which is exactly what He did.
- The man who had been delivered begged Jesus to take him along, but He refused his request. Instead, He sent him back to his hometown so he could tell his own people the great things God had done for him, which was exactly what he did (Luke 8:39).
- Here is the reality of the situation: some people may be scared of Jesus, but they are not scared of you because they know who you are, what you are and how you operate. They may not be in a place where they are willing to accept Jesus, but they will stop to listen to what *you* have to say!
- All we need to do is to allow the work God has done in us to show and to let people know who it is that caused the incredible changes they see. LET IT SHOW! Share Jesus.
- In John 9, Jesus healed a man who was born blind and had spent his life as a beggar. After Jesus healed him, everybody started talking! "Isn't this the guy we used to see begging at the temple?" In response, the ex-blind man said, "It's me! It's me! I can see!"

KEY SCRIPTURES:
Luke 8:26-39; John 9

- Having been touched so dramatically by Jesus, the blind man was not shy in proclaiming his miracle, nor did he hide it.
- You may think that your story is not nearly as dramatic as this, but it *is* dramatic to those who knew you before Jesus came into your life.
- You no longer steal as you used to, lie to cover wrongdoings, cheat and commit fraudulent acts, lash out at others with an abusive tongue, live in fear and depression, live a selfish, self-absorbed life, or whatever else the change or miracle may be.
- "No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts *it* in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light" (Luke 11:33).
- This is God's will for us—that we let His light shine through us. We have the privilege of being lamps that light the way for others to come to Christ.
- It is time for us to cast the bushel basket aside so those around us can see the amazing work of God in our lives.
- LET IT SHOW!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1) Discuss impressions people can give by the way they appear (clothing/self-decoration, speech, actions, etc.).
2) Was there an observable change in your life when you became a new creature in Christ? If so:
   a) What were some of those changes? Were they gradual, or did they occur right away?
   b) Were there any changes that took place that you were at first resistant to? What caused you to finally institute that change?
3) Discuss what Christians need to remember in order to truly "show" that they are new creatures in Christ.
4) Have people ever asked you about the change that has taken place in your life? What was/will be your answer to them?

Prayer Time
Lord, please give me the confidence to not hide my light under a bushel, but to rather show Christ and the immense change you have made in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

L.G. ice-Breaker: Have you recently purchased something new for yourself or received a gift from someone else? Did you show it off to others?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✔ (Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

! (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS