

1. This morning I am going to ask you to join with me as we think outside our world here in Batesville and Independence County and think about the entire world.
2. I'm not asking you to consider the political climate or economic climate of this world, I am asking you to join with me and think about the people of this world.
3. Specifically I am asking you to consider with me the spiritual condition of the people of this world.
4. People like those in places that are represented by the posters all around the sanctuary.
5. People that may not look like us. Talk like us. Dress like us. Or Live like us. But who are important and who matter to God?
6. Why would I ask you to do that? That's a very good question.
7. I would ask you to do that because when Jesus challenged his disciples to wait in Jerusalem in an upper room for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The event that would birth the church as we know it, Jesus was clear what their mission was to be.
8. In fact, his words are so important it is called the great commission.
9. Commission: an instruction, command, or duty given to a person or group of people. a group of people officially charged with a particular function.
10. **Matthew 28:19-20** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
11. If we were to simplify what Jesus said into four words, those four words would be **Go. Make. Baptize. Teach.**
12. This great commission or instruction or command cannot be fulfilled by staying where you are. Going is quite necessary.
13. Make disciples. The first aspect of making disciples is introducing them to the saving power of Jesus Christ. That they might receive Jesus as savior.
14. Baptize them. Baptism is a symbol that they now have a new life. The old them no longer controls their life. They are dead to sin. And the new them, led by the Spirit of God is what controls their life.

15. Teaching. This indicates that in this new life, they don't know everything right away, they have to learn and grow into this new life they have been given.
16. So we have these four functions of this great commission. And even though all of us don't carry out the same function, together, as one it is all our responsibilities to carry out this mission.
17. I shared with you last Sunday that one of the ways we go about carrying on the great commission around the world is by sending missionaries to countries all around the globe to do these very things.
18. And it is the sending part that falls upon us.
19. In Batesville we are responsible for going into our community, making disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey the Word.
20. But in the grand scheme of things, on a worldwide basis, our role is one of sending.
21. **Romans 10:13-15** for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." **14** How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? **15** And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?
22. This morning we are going to look at an example of what happens when Jesus is brought to a community of people who do not know him. And the miracles that are possible through that act.

TEXT: **Mark 5:1-13** They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. **2** When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. **3** This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. **4** For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. **5** Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. **6** When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. **7** He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" **8** For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" **9** Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." **10** And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. **11** A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. **12** The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." **13** He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

TITLE: **Out of sight, out of mind.**

INTRO:

1. Use your imagination with me if you will. Jesus sails up on what is probably a small to medium size town. Not a city but a town.
2. It is located along the shore of a lake. So you have the water. The town up above that. And then further up in the hills, probably overlooking or beside the town is the cemetery.
3. Upon getting out of the boat, Jesus runs face first into the biggest, most challenging, most difficult problem this town has.
4. Of all the struggles of daily life, this town was terrorized by a man who was possessed what the bible calls a legion of demons.
5. In roman culture a legion was a unit of the army that consisted of 3,000 to 6,000 soldiers.
6. This man was posses by thousands of demons, and the demons were not just making his life miserable, these demons were making the lives of everyone in this town miserable.
7. This man was so out of control and was so terrorizing this town that they resorted to trying to chain him up like an animal.
8. But it didn't work. The power of the demons was so strong in him that he would break the chains on his hands, and he would rip open the shackles on his feet.
9. This man was completely out of control.
10. But fortunately for the people of this town, they got a little bit of help when the man decided to run into the tombs that were in the hills and live there.
11. These tombs would have been cut out of the side of the hills long before a person died, and this man was living in these empty tombs.
12. So one the one hand this man was not out of sight. He was no longer visible to them each and every day.
13. There is a saying, out of sight, out of mind. Meaning if I can't see it, then I don't have to think about it.
14. Often times it is a coping mechanism that we use when faced with something difficult or challenging.
15. Sometimes we just simply forget things that need our attention because they are not right in front of us.
16. Out of sight, out of mind.

17. But even though this man was out of sight, he for sure was not out of mind.
18. Verse 5 says that night and day he would cry out and scream and cut himself with stones.
19. There was rarely a moment in the life of the people of this town that they were not plagued by the torment of this man.
20. But still they tried their best to block it out.
21. If we are not careful, we too can tend to block out the cries of a lost a dying world who is desperately in need of deliverance.
22. It's not that we don't care. I believe all of us listening today care.
23. But so often we are at a loss as to what to do. How can we make a difference? Will anything I do make a difference?
24. I want to point out some of the challenges to going into all the world and making disciples and baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything the Lord has commanded.
25. But I also want to give you the solution.
26. What are the challenges?

The need is almost overwhelming.

1. Mark 5:5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.
2. Night and day. Day and night. This man screamed and cried and cut himself, and it must have been almost maddening to the people of this town.
3. They could not escape the torture of this man's screams.
4. I was talking one time to a loving couple who adored their children and did everything in their power to care for them.
5. We were talking about the challenges of children, especially when they are babies and they cry uncontrollably for hours at a time.
6. These adoring, calm, caring parents described a season in their babies' life in which she cried non-stop for hours at a time and how it nearly drove them insane.
7. And that was after only a few hours.

8. Imagine the affect of the people of this town listening to this man scream and cry and harm himself day and night for probably years.
9. You talk about an impossibility. You talk about hopelessness. I would imagine these people felt hopeless.
10. If we're not careful we can look around our world and see all the garbage and strife and fighting and messes and in a very short time we can be overwhelmed by feelings of hopelessness.
11. Without a doubt the needs of our world are great, and the challenges of just living in this world, much less reaching this world for Jesus can be overwhelming.
12. Another challenge is the fact that...

Our best efforts are no match for the problem.

1. Mark 5:3-4 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.
2. To their credit. These people tried. They did everything they knew to do.
3. They were not passive in their approach to this situation, they were active. We need to stop this torment. Something needs to be done.
4. And they did everything they knew to do. But nothing worked.
5. Chains didn't work. Their own strength didn't work. Their best efforts didn't work.
6. The problem, the enemy, the situation was greater they were physically able to handle.
7. Those are the challenges. The need is great and our ability is highly limited.
8. But now let me give you the solution.

Jesus is the answer.

1. I know that is a very simplistic solution. I know it's not really as easy as saying Jesus is the solution. He is the solution and I hope you know and believe he is the solution, but the reality is there will still be battles and struggles.

2. But in spite of the struggles. In spite of the size of the problems. In spite of how hopeless things can seem, we must come back to the place where we believe and live as if Jesus is what I need and Jesus is what this world needs.
3. Because there is no power of hell. There is no obstacle. There is no need. There is no impossibility that is a match for the wonder working power of Jesus.
4. Mark 5:6-8 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"
5. The power of god has no equal. For some period of time, maybe even years, the people of this town were at the mercy of this man and the demons that possessed him.
6. But with one sentence, the demons and this man are now at the mercy of the son of God.
7. What man couldn't do in years, the Lord Jesus did in a split second.
8. In verse 10 this legion of demons resorts to begging Jesus to spare them.
9. In verse 12 they are begging again. Why were they begging?
10. Because hell and every demon in it is deathly afraid of the son of God. Demons, death, and hell can't stand against the power of almighty God. They are no match.
11. Do you believe Jesus is the answer to your battles?
12. Do you believe Jesus is the answer to the spiritual warfare going on in Batesville?
13. Do you believe Jesus is the answer the world is looking for?
14. I believe you do believe it. But here's the reality. Belief alone isn't enough.
15. According to James 2 faith without works is dead. Faith without action is useless.

Someone must go.

1. In Mark chapter 3, crowds of thousands are following Jesus.
2. In Mark chapter 4 even larger crowds are following Jesus.

3. As they follow him those chapters say that people were being healed, delivered, and set free.
4. Word of Jesus was spreading far and wide. People everywhere knew of Jesus.
5. In the latter part of chapter 4 and the first part of chapter 5 we find that Jesus was only a boat ride from this town, these people, and this demon possessed man.
6. In every other place Jesus had been, chapter 3 says when those with demons saw Jesus that the person fell before Jesus and began to proclaim he was the son of God.
7. Jesus didn't even have to say or do anything for the situation to change.
8. And yet here is this town, just miles away by boat, and they are experiencing no deliverance, no freedom, and no peace of mind.
9. What changed the situation? What changed is that Jesus went to them. **Mark 5:1-2** They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. **2** When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him.
10. The man didn't come toward deliverance. Deliverance had to come to him in the form of Jesus Christ.
11. That is still true in our world today. If our world is going to be saved, delivered, and set free, then Jesus is going to have to be presented to them. Jesus is going to have to be taken to where they are.
12. But pastor, Jesus is in heaven. Yes and no. He is in heaven but he is also in us. **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
13. If you are a believer and follower of Jesus Christ then Jesus lives in you. So when you walk into any situation you are bringing Jesus into that situation.
14. We are the carriers of Jesus. And we are also called to be senders of Jesus.

Conclusion:

1. Yes, we carry Jesus to Batesville, Independence county, and beyond.

2. But we also send Jesus to northeast Arkansas. The United States. The continents and the world. And we do that through the sending of missionaries.

3. Romans 10:13-15 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?

4. As I prepare to close this message, I am asking you to consider two things.

5. How are you carrying Jesus into your world?

6. How are you representing Jesus in your world? Home. Job. School. Playground?

7. And secondly, are you actively engaged in sending the message of Jesus to the world.

8. How do we send? Primarily through prayers and finances.

9. We pray for missionaries and missionary works around the world.

10. And we give financially to support missionaries and missionary works around the world.

11. I mentioned last week that BFA supports 52 missionaries and ministries around the world.

12. That isn't nearly enough. We have requests at least monthly from missionaries who need our prayer support and our financial support.

13. I got a request just this week from a missionary for help. I hate to do it, but I had to tell him I can't right now because we don't have the resources coming in to support him.

14. Would you consider giving an amount of money each pay period or each month for the support of more missionaries?

15. Prayer time.

16. Jesus is the answer to your situation. Receive him.

17. Would you pray and ask the Lord for direction on how you can represent him in your world?

18. Would you pray and ask the Lord for direction about giving to send Jesus to the rest of the world?

19. Lord, help us not to conceal the answer to this world's problems.