

DISCOVER AND EMBRACE

# God's created design

AND MISSION FOR YOUR LIFE!



## FORGETTING WHO WE ARE

### RUSSELL MOORE, TRUE WOMAN '16

Text: Mark 5:1-20

We're living in a world where there are a lot of people consumed with fear and panic. The reason we become fearful is because we've forgotten who we are. Mark 5:1-20 reminds us.

The man in this passage is among the tombs. He's cut off from the rest of his people and in bondage to unclean spirits. His situation is extreme, but it's not any different from that of the world outside of Jesus Christ.

#### Jesus isn't fearful:

- Of being seen with this man.
- That He'll be overcome by unclean spirits.
- That He'll be overcome by this man.

#### Jesus has confidence in:

- the Spirit of God.
- the mission God has given Him.
- the gospel.

Jesus doesn't come in to win an argument or to demonstrate His power. He comes in with His presence and His personal encounter.

This man's despair had led him to the place where he had lost himself. And today in our culture people are connected than ever before and yet are lonely and isolated.

"Is the gospel for someone like me?"

We need to show the world:

- our brokenness.
- our woundedness.
- our sin.

Too often we manage our image to show that we have everything all together. Then we will give the picture to the outside world that the gospel has not come for sinners but for the righteous.

Jesus doesn't do this. Jesus walks right in here to this place of this lonely man, and He brings him out of loneliness into community.

Jesus is never freaking out when everybody else is. And sometimes when everybody else is calm, Jesus is anguished.

*Jesus knows that the things we are the least worried about are the things we ought to be the most worried about. And the things that we are the most worried about are the things that we ought to be the least worried about.*

If we're going to be the people who will engage others around us without fear, we must:

- give up our attempts to be **strong** and **all together**.
- **bear witness** to the outside world.

*The only difference between us and you is that somewhere outside the gates of Jerusalem we were crucified with Christ. And somewhere outside the gates of Jerusalem, there is an empty hole in the ground where we walked out with Christ. And we're so joined with Him, God says exactly of us what He says of Jesus Christ. "This is My beloved child in whom I am well pleased. There is therefore now no condemnation for those in Christ."*

*And until the day when we are freed from all of this besetting sin, and until the day when we are freed from all of these doubts and all of these fears, we will walk not seeing where we're going by faith because we follow a voice that first said to us "What is your name?" And we confess and bear witness that we're with Him, and we're in detox.*