

FROM THE TOMBS TO THE TOWNS

Sermon Notes: Mark 5

Week 18 -- 2010

Getting to Know me Questions ...

This week's sermon was the story of a man and his very first encounter with Jesus. Spend a few moments recalling the first time that you crossed paths with Jesus. For some it might be a memory from a very early age. For others it may be a very recent recollection. In either case, share a few sentences about how you remember it and perhaps what your reaction to that first encounter was (good, bad, or ugly!)

Digging Deeper ...

As a group, each take turns reading a few verses out loud from the story of Moses and his first encounter with the Lord:

- Exodus 3.1-7
- Exodus 3.12-14
- Exodus 4.1-5
- Exodus 4.10-12

- 1.) What are the various emotions and objections that Moses has in the story?
- 2.) What type of response does God have to each of Moses' objections? What emotional words would you use to label them?
- 3.) Which of the reactions of Moses can you relate the most to?

Take a moment to read and consider Exodus 4.18-20.

Now re-read verse 20.

Did anyone in the group notice that something has changed?

In Exodus 4.2, Moses is holding a simple staff. It's a simple tool that Moses has and uses to aid himself, perhaps, in walking along treacherous hill-country and guiding his flocks. But in 4.20, this staff now has a new name: The Staff of God (NIV). Several years ago, a pastor named Rick Warren pointed out that through Moses' submission to and pursuit of God, the supernatural stick changed history and humanity. He further suggests that the question God is still asking each of us are as straight-forward and simple as the one He asked Moses. Do not complicate this. "What is in your hand?" Perhaps it is a talent, an ability, specific resources, or maybe a simple story. Could it be that God might use that "stick" to change a thing or two?

Taking it home ...

Looking back at this week's teaching and study. Is there an objective that you have to sharing "What God has done for me" with those around you? How is God answering that objection?

Is there a "stick" in your life that God is asking you to let him use for his purposes? If so, consider starting each day this week asking Him to create opportunities for it to be used for His glory.

Consider asking someone in your Growth Group to call you this week and ask you how God is working on your objections or with your "sticks".