

For the week of July 17, 2016
Pastor: Corrie Gustafson

Home from the Tombs

Second week in the series "Stories of Welcome in the Gospel of Luke."

Luke 8:26-39

How should we respond to people whose being or behavior do not fit into our neat categories of social acceptability? Today Jesus encounters a man possessed by many demons. The man had been thrown out of the city by his neighbors, chained, and put under guard. He lives naked and alone in a cemetery, his only company are the demons who drove him mad. Until Jesus shows up and reverses his fate?

Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking of our society, who are the outcasts, untouchables, or spiritually enslaved among us?
2. In the story of this demoniac, we see Jesus travel to a Gentile region, engage with, and heal an unclean demoniac. In what ways does the church show this kind of radical hospitality? In what ways is the church falling short?
3. The witnesses to this miraculous transformation were controlled and limited by their fear of the demoniac and then their fear of Jesus' power and authority. What fears might be limiting your discipleship to Christ or your witness of Christ's power?
4. The transformed man wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus sent him home to tell the story of all that Jesus had done for him. Christians often feel inadequate when God does not call them to the mission field to serve him. What can we learn from this transformed man as he returned home?