

sent

Advent Guide
week two



 TRANSFORMATION
CHURCH

Reading:

Luke 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free the oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke 8:26-39

Then they sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When he got out on land, a demon-possessed man from the town met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes and did not stay in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torment me!" For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was guarded, bound by chains and shackles, he would snap the restraints and be driven by the demon into deserted places.

"What is your name?" Jesus asked him.

"Legion," he said, because many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to banish them to the abyss.

A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. The demons begged him to permit them to enter the pigs, and he gave them permission. The demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

When the men who tended them saw what had happened, they ran off and reported it in the town and in the countryside. Then people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man the demons had departed from, sitting at Jesus's feet, dressed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Meanwhile, the eyewitnesses reported to them how the demon-possessed man was delivered. Then all the people of the Gerasene

region asked him to leave them, because they were gripped by great fear. So getting into the boat, he returned.

The man from whom the demons had departed begged him earnestly to be with him. But he sent him away and said, “Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you.” And off he went, proclaiming throughout the town how much Jesus had done for him.

Sent to the Captive

Devotional: As Jesus continues reading the scroll of Isaiah he says, “He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives...” Reading through Scripture, it is evident that God wants to bring freedom to the world; and he does that through His Son. There is hope and His name is Jesus. He was sent to set us free from the slavery of sin, death, and evil. He has come to bring life and defeat dark powers.

Luke 8 shows us one man who was being held captive. He would shatter the chains and shackles that bound his arms, but he was still bound by an unclean spirit. The account that follows is bizarre, but by the end of his encounter with Jesus, he is free from the oppressive spirit and sent by Jesus to tell his people of the mercy he has experienced. All of us are captives before we know Christ. Once we experience His life, though, it’s hard to keep quiet about it.

Now that we have freedom, we don’t keep it for ourselves. We are sent out to set the captives free. We share this freedom with everyone we meet. We advocate for the oppressed. We provide refuge in times of trouble. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit, freed for a purpose, to set others free as well.

Prayer: God, we thank you for sending Your Son, Jesus, to set the captives free. We know that it is Your desire that all would be freed. Empower us with Your Spirit to partner with you to bring freedom to the world around us. Awaken the desire within us to share the freedom we have experienced through Christ. Amen.

Soul-tattoo: Transformation Church, we are sent to set the captives free.