

Mark 5:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

Analysis

The healed man obeyed: 'he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.' The verb 'publish' (κηρύσσειν) means herald, proclaim publicly—the same word used for preaching gospel. He proclaimed 'in Decapolis' (ἐν τῇ Δεκαπόλει)—the ten Gentile cities, not his hometown only. His message: 'how great things Jesus had done'—focusing on Christ's work. The result: 'all men did marvel' (πάντες ἐθαύμαζον)—widespread amazement. His testimony prepared region for Jesus' return (Mark 7:31). Transformed lives provide powerful evangelistic testimony. Personal experience of Christ's saving power naturally produces witness.

Historical Context

Decapolis ('ten cities') was confederation of Greco-Roman cities in region east/southeast of Sea of Galilee. Founded after Alexander the Great's conquests, these cities maintained Greek culture under Roman rule. They were predominantly Gentile with minority Jewish populations. The healed demoniac became first Gentile evangelist recorded in Mark, foreshadowing gospel's expansion to all nations. His testimony prepared receptive audience for Jesus' later ministry. Early church emphasized testimony's evangelistic power—transformed lives authenticate gospel. Church history demonstrates that personal testimony often opens doors closed to formal preaching.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does your transformation story provide natural evangelistic opportunities?
2. What prevents you from openly 'publishing' what great things Jesus has done for you?
3. How can you follow this man's example—proclaiming Christ's work in your sphere of influence?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀπῆλθεν καὶ ἤρξατο κηρύσσειν ἐν τῇ Δεκαπόλει
And he departed And began to publish in ^{G3588} **Decapolis**
G2532 G565 G2532 G756 G2784 G1722 G1179

ὅσα ἐποίησεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ πάντες
how great things had done for him ^{G3588} **Jesus And all**
G3745 G4160 G846 G2424 G2532 G3956

ἐθαύμαζον
men did marvel
G2296

Additional Cross-References

Mark 7:31 (Parallel theme): And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.

Matthew 4:25 (Parallel theme): And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.

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