

Mark 5:18-19

And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

When I buy clothes, one thing I will not buy is anything that has the company's logo on it. The reason I don't is I figure, why should I be paying a company to advertise for them. You buy a shirt with Nike or Addidas or Taco Bell or any other company name on it, and when you are, what you are doing is giving that company free advertisement as you wear it, and hundreds of people see it each day. But even worse, it's not only free for the company, but you pay them to advertise for them. It reminds me of being a musician in the world with what is called "Pay to play" which means that you would pay the bar or club to allow your band to play in that bar or club. What you are doing is paying the bar to advertise for you. It would be like going to work and paying your employer to work for them.

But this is not about paying to advertise for others, but what Jesus told this man who was demon possessed, and Jesus had cast the demons out of. When Jesus was about to leave the town that this man lived in, it says that "*he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.*" But Jesus response was, "*Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.*"

And we take what Jesus said to this man and try to do the same thing, wanting to be obedient and share what Jesus has done in our lives. But sometimes we get it wrong, and instead of doing what Jesus originally said, we twist it to say things like.

"Go home to your friends and tell them what a great church you go to."

"Go home to your friends and tell them what a great pastor you have."

"Go home to your friends and tell them what great events are happening at your church."

"Go home to your friends and tell them about this great Christian concert you want to take them too."

We are not called to advertise our church, our pastor, the events that are happening in our church, or even to Christian concerts to the lost. Sure, these things have their place and it's actually not wrong to do that. But if we are allowing those things, and those things alone to be our witness, then we have missed the mark of what Jesus has called us to do.

Christian T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc. have their place, but how many people do we know came to Christ because of someone wearing a Christian T-shirt, or because they read a Christian bumper sticker? I don't know of anyone. Once again these things are not wrong or are they bad, but they should not be our witness, our lives and telling others about Jesus is our witness, anything else is manmade schemes to try to replace the work that the Holy Spirit should be doing through us, which is telling others about Jesus and not our church.

† **2 Peter 1:1 (NLT2)** *This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior.*

† **Mark 16:15** *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*

† **Romans 10:15** *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*