



Main Idea: We all have a story, and it needs to be told.

Secondary Idea: Our story is often our greatest apologetic.

Who likes a good story? We all do. It's really our main form of entertainment. It's the core of every good TV show and movie. A good story makes for some of the best songs. Books continue to be written and read even though we have all these other forms of entertainment now. It's because stories matter.

(Talk about some of your favorite stories.)

Stories matter, and everyone likes a good story. Here's the deal with you: if you have Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have a story. And it's an incredible story, whether you think it is or not. And it needs to be told.

There are two reasons we must tell our story, and they both have to do with Jesus. If our story doesn't have anything to do with Jesus then we don't have a story, or our story isn't worth telling because it's all about ourselves, or we need to learn how to tell our story.

The first reason we must tell our story is:

1) We are *compelled* to tell our story.

When you find something you like, you can't help but tell others. It is one of the most natural things we do. When you see a good *TV show, movie, sports play, funny video, book/author, good deal, etc.*, you can't help but tell anyone and everyone about it.

(Give an example of something good you have seen recently and have told everyone about.)

When you truly encounter Jesus, you can't help but tell others about Him.

I want us to read in full two encounters and responses of some people whose lives were changed by Jesus. It's ok to read large portions of Scripture together. It is the Word of God that changes us. Let it change you as you listen intently to these lives that were changed by Jesus, and see yourself within these stories, because He offers you a changed life as well.

Luke 8:26-39 (ESV)

²⁶ Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." ²⁹ For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. ³² Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

³⁴ When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ³⁶ And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." **And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.**

John 4:1-30; 39-42 (ESV)

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