

Richmond Hill Baptist Church

February 5, 2012

## **My Story**

### Prelude

Call to Worship: *Blessed Be Your Name*

Welcome: Welcome to the Richmond Hill Baptist Church. If you are a guest please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate. Let's greet one another.

Sing: *Days of Elijah, Revelation Song, How Great Thou Art*

Children's Corner: My Story: POF March 20, 1976

*I'm a Christian Now* (Younger & Older Child Editions) & *The Faith of a Child*

### Announcements Offering:

1. Ambassador Pie Festival, Thursday 1:30 pm, Courageous Trailer, Sign Up
2. Valentine Brunch, February 11, Tickets

Offertory: Hallelujah to My King

Sermon: **My Story**

## **My Story**

*You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day,  
By the deeds that you do and the words that you say.  
Men read what you write—distorted or true;  
What is the gospel according to you? ~ Anonymous*

## **The Story of the Man from Gerasene (Luke 8:26-39, Mark 5:1-20)**

### **Luke 8:26-39**

<sup>26</sup> They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. <sup>27</sup> When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" <sup>29</sup> For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. <sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. <sup>32</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and

*the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.* <sup>34</sup> *When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside,* <sup>35</sup> *and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.* <sup>36</sup> *Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured.* <sup>37</sup> *Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.* <sup>38</sup> *The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,* <sup>39</sup> ***“Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.***

### **His Life Before Christ**

1. Possessed
2. Uncontrollable
3. Isolated

### **His Encounter with Christ**

1. Recognition of who Jesus is
2. Submission to Jesus
3. Freedom from the Demonic

*"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils [sic 'demons']. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight." ~*  
**C. S. Lewis**, from his "Preface to *The Screwtape Letters*".

### **His Life After Christ**

1. Jesus gave him new clothes.

Isaiah 64:6: *All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags*

Isaiah 61:10: *I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,*

2. Jesus gave him a new mind.

1 Corinthians 2:16: *“For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.*

3. Jesus gave him a new mission.

## **Luke 8:38-39**

<sup>38</sup> *The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,* <sup>39</sup> ***“Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.***

## **Putting the Pieces of My Story Together**

Piece #1: What was my life like before I met Christ?

Piece #2: How did I come to Christ?

Piece #3: What difference has there been in my life since coming to Christ?

Piece #4: Has anything like this ever happened to you?

**Video: Testify** (Sermon Spice)

## **The Significance of Your Salvation Story**

1. Your story is unique.
2. Your story is a testimony of the grace of God.
3. Your story is powerful.

1 Corinthians 2:1-4

*When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. <sup>2</sup> For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.*

My Story: Every Sunday leading up to Easter Sunday (10) Testimonies

Response: *Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone*

Postlude: *As It Is In Heaven*

New Members: Greg, Emilie, and Andrew Wilson

Next Sunday: *The Lords’ Supper & Baptism*