



Posted on June 5, 2016  
Written by Nathanael Vissia

*This material is the copyrighted property of rfour.org. It is also free. Please use, improve and share this material. But do not ever sell it or require any sharing of personal information for it.*

An rfour.org Children's Time Message

**For more information visit** [www.rfour.org/childrenstime.html](http://www.rfour.org/childrenstime.html)

*Written for Sunday, June 19, 2016*

*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary Year C*

**Scripture:** [Luke 8:26-39](#) [ **Summary:** *Gerasene Man Uses His Words.* ]

**Supplies Needed:** No supplies needed

**ASK** (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- Have you ever been so sad or so angry, that you sort of lost control of yourself? That you just screamed or yelled or cried so hard that maybe you were even a little bit afraid that you'd never stop?
- Yeah? ... Me too.
- We sometimes call those moments "tantrums"
- And sometimes during a tantrum, an adult or friend might tell you to stop crying and screaming and instead "use your words."
- If you do this, then the adult can know what the problem is and how to best help you.

**TELL** (a.k.a [The Freeway](#))

- In today's scripture story, we learn about a man who often has such tantrums.
- And those tantrums are so scary that the townspeople won't let him live near them anymore.
- Then, when Jesus arrives, the man goes running at Jesus, probably because he wants help.
- But, for a moment, there, it looks like the man is going to have a tantrum.
- He starts yelling at Jesus, "What have you to do with me?" And, "Do not torment me!"
- But then Jesus does something very interesting: He asks the man his name.
- Instead of telling Jesus his real name, the man "uses his words" to tell Jesus the name of his problem.

- And once the man is able to say what his problem is, then Jesus is able to help him.
- They even make a little plan together, carry it out, and then the man experiences healing.

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Jesus was able to help the man in today's story because the man was able to say what his problem was to Jesus
- This is true for all of us
- When we "use our words" to tell someone we trust what our problem is, then they are better able to help us
- This is also true for us with God
- When we tell God what our problems are, then we can listen to how God wants to help us with the problem
- And that is the good new for today: When we tell God what our problems are, God can then help us know what to do.
- Let's close with a repeat-after-me prayer...

## **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

Dear God,

**Thank you for words ...**

Thank you for words ...

**...that we can speak to you...**

...that we can speak to you...

**...about what we are having a hard time with.**

...about what we are having a hard time with.

**Help us to then hear your words...**

Help us to then hear your words...

**...that will help us know what to do next.**

...that will help us know what to do next.

**Thank you and Amen**