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# VISION SUNDAY 2022

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## Setting Sail

Right now, it feels like the whole world is adrift in the midst of a storm. Everyone's boat is being rocked. The whole world is caught up in a reactionary mind set, breeding fear and hopelessness. But, what if in these set of circumstances, we were actually best positioned to call out on the name of Jesus to still the storm and be best positioned for a move of His spirit? Something beyond what we could ever achieve in and of ourselves regardless of our experience.

We believe the Lord has called us to set sail towards a vision that is still on the horizon. Riverlife is a large sailing vessel, powered by the wind of His Spirit, that is navigating a narrow channel to attain the vision of being a family embracing the Fathers presence releasing an empowered people who will declare and demonstrate Christ's kingdom.

We believe we are challenged to not drift to open water (complacency) nor to get distracted by the rocks and headlands (fear of man), or be afraid of the storms that surround us, but continue to be guided by God and become more aware of our surrounds. These things held us back in the past, but we hear God saying will you go? It's time to set sail.

Now is the time to look beyond the four walls of the church, to honour the past by building the future, and see what God is calling us to as we assess and try to meet the needs of our local community, endeavor to pastor the city of Brisbane and release revivalists to the nations of the world.

### The Other Side (Mark 4:35-5:20)

Jesus moves from one side of the Sea of Galilee to another region called the Decapolis, a Greek word meaning ten cities. To the Jews these people were pagans known as the seven nations of Canaan (Acts 13:19). The area was filled with pagan temples and was known as an area that stood for everything that Israel was not.

- + The demon possessed man - a symbol of all that this region stood for
- + A transformed life
- + Jesus rejected out of fear, but people captivated by a man's story

Many people's lives are still being miraculously transformed today by a touch from Jesus. Unfortunately, many are also in fear of Jesus. Jesus asks us, His disciples to tell our story of what He has done in our lives.

### **The Power of a Story (Mark 6:53-56)**

Jesus returns to "the other side". This time the reception is remarkably different. Great crowds came to see Him, bringing the sick and laying them at His feet in the hope of receiving a transformed life. The lives of the people on the other side are transformed. What happened? What changed? One man told his story of what Jesus did for him, and it changed a whole unbelieving region.

- + It is very difficult to argue with a personal testimony of transformation.
- + People will listen to the story of somebody who is one of them.

Jesus wanted His disciples to know that Good News is coming, and it's coming for everyone. Jesus' heart hasn't changed. He still desires that all people know of the Good News that is found in Him.

Jesus is saying to us, "I'm inviting you to set sail to the other side. Because when My glory is on display, when My kingdom is declared and demonstrated, people's lives are going to be transformed and they are going to have a story to tell everyone they know."

### **A Command to Go (Matthew 28:18-20)**

The last words of Jesus are a command to His followers to go and make disciples of all nations, of all the peoples. That's why we are here. That is why we exist, it's our mission.

There comes this exchange when it's not about us anymore, but we become the beautiful recipients of everything God wants to do in and through us. Breakthrough is His people collectively coming together to see a breaking out of His kingdom both in and among us. His glory breaking in when we gather but bursting out through us when we go.

When we see a people released, we see a people who know they are empowered, they know who they are and whose they are. They know their calling and they're aware of the part they play in the body. It is then that there is a supernatural and glorious empowerment that is waiting to be released through us as we are taken by the wind/power of His Spirit.

Where's the other side for you? Who is on the other side for you?

Now is the time to look beyond the four walls of the church, to see what God is calling us to as we assess and try to meet the needs of our local community, endeavor to pastor the city of Brisbane and release revivalists to the nations of the world.

Jesus is still looking for followers who are willing to go to the other side, into our city. To the lost and the desperate. We're setting sail for the unreached in our city.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Share together your response from the message.
  
2. The life transformation of the demon possessed man was dramatic and complete – it's a great story and demonstration of power. What's your story of transformation? What has changed in you since meeting Jesus?

3. Where's the other side for you? Who is on the other side for you?
  
4. What is the next step for you to engage in the vision becoming a reality?
  
5. How do you feel about being open for God to use you to bring healing, deliverance, life transformation through you for others? Does this even come up on your radar? Do you expect God will use you to bring His Kingdom to others?
  
6. Is there a fear that stops you from telling your story or being used by God to demonstrate His Kingdom power? Ask God to replace this fear with His perfect love.
  
7. Spend some time in prayer for each other and for those who God lays on your heart to reach out to.