















SCRIPTURE: MARK 5:1-20 1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no-one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No-one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" 9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. 11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." 13 He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. 14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.



Across the lake from Galilee was a place called Gerasenes.. For a long time there had been a man living there who wore no clothes. He didn't live in a house, but stayed out among the tombs in the graveyard. People had often tried to chain him up to get him under control, but he simply tore the chains apart and continued to roam through the tombs, howling and cutting himself with stones. No one was strong enough to hold him. He had a serious problem. He had been taken over by a bunch of evil spirits called demons. God allowed evil and wicked spirits to take over people in those days so that Jesus could show people that he had power over the devil.



Jesus came to the shore in a boat. When He stepped ashore, the demon-filled man came running to him, crying and fell on his knees in front of Jesus.



"What do you want of me, Jesus, son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" the evil spirits in the man yelled. "What is your name?" Jesus asked the spirits. "Our name is Legion because there are lots of us," the spirits replied. The spirits begged Jesus not to send them out of the region. "See those pigs over there on the hillside," the spirits said, "send us into them."



"Get out of this man you evil spirit and go into the pigs!" Jesus commanded. And the spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs. Then the pigs all ran into the lake and drowned. Two thousand pigs drowned that day before the amazed eyes of their keepers. The keepers of the pigs ran into town and reported what had happened.



The people from town came out to see for themselves and when they saw the man who had been filled with demons sitting properly clothed and talking sensibly to Jesus, they were very afraid. They begged Jesus to leave their area. Someone with that much power was just too scary to have around.



As Jesus was leaving the area, the man who had been filled with demons ran to Him and begged to go with Him. But Jesus said, "No, you must go home and tell everyone what great things the Lord has done for you."



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