

Demons Are Cast Into Swine {Gadarene Demoniac}

Matthew 8:28-34

²⁸ And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" ³⁰ Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. ³¹ And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." ³² And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. ³³ The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴ And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region. ESV

Mark 5:1-20

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. ⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸ For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

Luke 8:26-39

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 were 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. ESV

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Luke 8:26

- And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes. There is a perplexing difference in the reading of the older manuscripts here, but it is simply a question of the precise name of the locality where the great miracle was worked. In the three narratives of Matthew, Mark, and Luke the older manuscripts vary between "Gergesenes," "Gerasenes," and "Gadarenes." *Gatiara* was a city of some importance, about three hours' journey distant from the southern end of the Lake of Gennesaret. Its ruins are well known, and are distinguished by the remains of two amphitheatres. *Gerasa* was also a place of mark, and was situated about fifty miles from the lake. These cities might in the days of our Lord have either given its name to a great district stretching to the borders of the lake. *Gergesa* was a small and very obscure town nearly opposite Capernaum. There are some ruins now on this spot still known by the very slight corruption of *Kerzha*. There is scarcely any doubt that the scene of the miracle on the poor demoniac, and of the subsequent possession of the swine, must be looked for on this spot. But it was an obscure, little-known spot, and in very early days the preachers who told the story of the great miracle may have often spoken of the country as the district of the *well-known* Gerasa or Gadara, rather than of the *unknown* village of Gergesa. Hence probably the variations in the name in the older manuscripts here.

After calming the storm, Jesus and His disciples land on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, in the "country of the Gadarene's," named for the city of Gadara.

A difficulty arises from the fact that Matthew records two demoniacs, while Mark and Luke only refer to one. In a similar fashion, Matthew tells of two blind men at Jericho, while again, Mark and Luke only refer to Bartimaeus. This is not a contradiction, it is only that in each case only one of the two are prominent, and the other is just not mentioned.

Just as Jesus steps out of the boat a man with an unclean spirit comes out of the tombs toward Him. This is thought by some to be the most remarkable case of demon possession recorded.

Demon possession is distinguished from disease in the Bible, Cf Matthew 4:23-24

23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.

Demon possession seems to be more than gross immorality, although that may be what opens the way for demons to enter a man. The man is controlled by the demon(s), yet he is conscious of what they are doing. The man could not stop what the demons were doing and he hated himself for what he said and did.

Why were there so many cases of demon possession when Jesus was in His humility? Has demon possession disappeared?

Not to excuse what they did, but I believe the woman who drowned her children and the madman behind the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks are demon possessed. The same goes for serial killers and other cases of extreme of evil.

Another thought is that we have become so inured to evil that it takes the more extreme examples to make us think of demons. After all, what were the men in the tombs doing?

But it was a demoniac of the most miserable sort that met Jesus as He landed.

The demon spoke through the man, "What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you do not torment me."

The demon knew Jesus to be the Son of God.
Here is Evil in the presence of perfect holiness.

There is an appointed time. Matthew 8:29

More than one demon, Luke 8:30
A Roman legion of soldier was 6000 men; but here controlled by one demon.

Luke 8: 30-31 the abyss is the bottomless pit, or hell

The demons ask to be permitted to enter into the swine.
He permitted them and they ran into the sea.

This miracle has been ridiculed; the idea of demons entering swine, etc. There is simply too much that I don't know to doubt this or any other part of God's Word.

Why swine?

Later men could say that the man only seemed to be possessed, but how do you explain a herd of swine destroying themselves?

What about Jesus allowing someone's property to be destroyed?
Swine were unclean, but we don't know that the swine did not belong to a Gentile.

Jesus said, "A man is of more value than sheep," so says Trench, "if this granting of the evil spirits request helped in any way the relief of the man."

As to property, "He owns the cattle on a thousand hills."
I.e., everything, all creation is His!

The keepers of the swine run into town and tell what happened along the way.

They had no concern for the man who had been demon possessed.
They ask Jesus to leave and He does!

The man who had been delivered begs Jesus to let him go with Him.

Jesus was kind to the mob because He left them a witness.

Luke 8:39 Jesus did it & God did it. Jesus is God.

"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.

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