

Tell Me the Story of Jesus The Geresene Demoniac

- I. Introduction
 - A. Story is found in Matt. 8:23ff / Mk. 5:1ff / and Lk. 8:26ff
 1. We'll be looking at Lk. 8
 2. Let's read
- II. What the story?
 - A. Jesus and His disciples had just cross Galilee (He stilled the storm — a story for another time)
 - B. When they reached shore, they were in Geresene
 1. Geresene (Gadara) was part of the Decapolis region
 - a) 10 cities NE of Galilee
 - b) majority Greeks and Romans (only a few Jews)
 - c) boasted a certain autonomy granted from Roman (not be under a Roman governor)
 2. They were met by a demon possessed man
 - a) Living among the tombs rather than a house
 - b) Ran around without any clothing
 - c) Constantly screaming and gashing himself with stones
 - d) Townspeople had attempted to bind him with chains,
 - (1) but he was strong enough to break them
 - (2) Violent
 - (3) Too strong for any man to subdue him
 - e) He was a scary man
 3. Seeing Jesus, the demon possessed man — compelled by the demons — fell down before Jesus
 4. Jesus recognizing that the man was demon possessed had commanded the unclean spirit to come out
 5. The demon replied
 - a) "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"
 - b) "I beg You, do not torment me."
 6. Jesus asked the demon's name
 7. The demon answered,
 - a) "Legion", because they were many
 - b) The demons implore Jesus not to command them to go into the Abyss (the demon prison)
 - c) Please allow us to go into the herd of pigs, which were feeding on the mountainside (Mark says that there were about 2000 of them)
 8. Jesus gives the demons permission to go into the pigs
 - a) the herd rushes down the steep bank into the lake and are drowned
 - b) the herdsman saw what happened and went into town to tell the townspeople

- C. The farmers and townspeople came out to Jesus
1. Found the demon-possessed man...
 - a) dressed,
 - b) sitting down at the feet of Jesus
 - c) and in his right mind
 2. ...and asked Him to — leave
 - a) Grippled with great fear
 - b) One wonders what they feared, right?
 - (1) They had just be rescued from the scary, violent demon-possessed man
 - (2) Remember, that someone (maybe several of them) had just lost their herd of pigs
 - (3) You can be gripped by fear at the power that can do what Jesus did, but the more likely explanation is that they feared what other economic damage they might suffer
- D. So, Jesus gets into his boat with his disciples.
1. The formerly demon possessed man asks if he can go with them.
 2. Surprisingly, Jesus says no, ...
 - a) Possibly because he might have been a Gentile, but Gentile or Jew, Jesus had something special for him to do...
 - b) "...but return to your house, and describe what great things God has done for you."
 - c) So he went away, proclaiming throughout Mark says, the whole Decapolis area (10 cities area northeast of Galilee) what great things Jesus had done for him.
 - d) And **they** were AMAZED, providing an interesting contrast to the folks living in Geresene

III. What lessons

- A. Jesus has power over even the spirit world
1. Just before this Jesus had shown His power over the physical world by calming the storm,
 2. Now He was demonstrating that even thousands of demons were no match for Him
 - a) Mere men are warned not to even revile angelic authorities — don't know what they are dealing with (Jude 8-10 and 2 Peter 2:12)
 - b) He had the confessed power to throw the whole lot of them into the abyss, the prison of rebellious angelic spirits
 - c) Did you notice that like James 2:19 tells us these demons believed and shuddered before Him?
 3. Why should this matter?
 - a) Important to know that no matter how powerful the forces of Satan are, he **cannot win**
 - b) And they cannot tempt you more than you are able to bear — Jesus has forbidden it
 - c) They cannot destroy the Lord's church — Jesus has forbidden it

- d) He cannot take your souls without your cooperation — Jesus has forbidden it
- B. Sometimes because of fear and materialistic concerns people reject Jesus
1. People reject Jesus for a lot of silly reasons
 2. Contrast the Geresene townspeople's reaction (FEAR) to the reaction of people in the Decapolis (AMAZEMENT)
 3. The application is clear...will you fear or be amazed?
 - a) Will you fear what damage Jesus could do...?
 - (1) ...to your social life
 - (2) ...to your financial life
 - (3) ...to your moral life
 - (4) ...to your sex life
 - (5) ...to your materialistic life
 - (6) AND TURN YOUR BACK ON THE SON OF GOD
 - b) ...or stand amazed at what Jesus can do?
 - (1) for your soul
 - (2) for your escape from guilt and conscience
 - (3) for your family
 - (4) for your sanity
 - (5) for your peace
 - (6) for your comfort
 - (7) for your hope
 - (8) for your joy
- C. One effective Jesus-approved evangelistic approach is to tell others what God has done for you
1. So what has God done for you?
 - a) Provided for you physically
 - b) Answered your prayers
 - c) Protected you
 - d) Saved your soul
 - e) Saved you from sin itself and its physical consequences
 2. It is part of the reason we should thank and give glory to God for all the good in our lives
 - a) When we do, others hear and become interested
 - b) Ask questions
- D. Have you been cleansed by Jesus?
1. "Well, I'm not demon-possessed!"
 - a) Maybe not like the man in our story
 - b) But to the degree that we let the world direct our lives, we are
 - (1) This world is saturated with Satan's influences — like Legion
 - (2) Sin's destructive evidences are everywhere — like the man
 - (3) The world is enslaved — it is unable to stop itself — like the man
 - (4) We may be more like the demon-possessed man than we think

2. We need a great deal more Jesus and much less demon possessed world
 - a) so we could be sitting at Jesus' feet as disciples
 - b) clothed in His righteousness
 - c) ***and in our right minds, the mind of Christ***
3. This what happens when anyone lets Jesus, rather than the world, control him.
 - a) He can still cast out the demons of sin.
 - b) Better, He can save us from the consequences of our sin
 - c) Even better, He can give us eternal life in Heaven

IV. Conclusion

- A. Won't you let Jesus cleanse you today?
 1. If you've never become a Christian...
 2. If you are a Christian, but have allowed the world back in