

# Mark 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

## Analysis

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The scene included 'a great herd of swine feeding' nearby. This detail confirms Gentile territory—Jews considered pigs unclean (Leviticus 11:7; Deuteronomy 14:8) and wouldn't raise them. The 'great herd' (ἀγέλη...μεγάλη) suggests significant commercial operation. The swine's presence sets up demons' requested destination and illustrates possession's destructive nature. The detail is historically authentic—Decapolis region had substantial pig farming. The pigs become casualties demonstrating demonic destruction and Christ's priority: human souls infinitely outweigh commercial livestock. One man's liberation justifies entire herd's loss.

## Historical Context

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Decapolis was predominantly Gentile region with Greek-Roman culture. Pork was dietary staple, making pig farming profitable. Jewish prohibition on pigs didn't apply here. The herd's size (Mark 5:13 specifies about 2,000) indicates major commercial enterprise. Ancient agriculture relied on livestock—pigs provided meat, leather, religious sacrifices (in pagan contexts). The herd's destruction represents significant economic loss, explaining townspeople's later reaction (Mark 5:14-17). Early church encountered this Gospel in Gentile regions where the economic cost would resonate. The account demonstrates Jesus' priority: human salvation transcends material wealth.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' priority (human soul over material wealth) challenge contemporary materialistic values?
2. What economic or material sacrifices might following Jesus require, and how do you respond?
3. How does this passage help you evaluate proper values—eternal souls versus temporal possessions?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἦν	δὲ	ἐκεῖ	πρὸς	τὰ	ὄρη	ἀγέλη	χοίρων
<b>there was</b>	<b>Now</b>	<b>there</b>	<b>nigh</b>	G3588	<b>unto the mountains</b>	<b>herd</b>	<b>of swine</b>
G2258	G1161	G1563	G4314		G3735	G34	G5519
μεγάλη	βοσκομένη·						
<b>a great</b>	<b>feeding</b>						
G3173	G1006						

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