

# Mark 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.

## Analysis

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The swineherds 'fled, and told it in the city, and in the country.' They reported both the exorcism and economic disaster. 'They went out to see what it was that was done'—the townspeople came to investigate. News of miraculous exorcism and drowned pigs spread rapidly. The swineherds' report was factual—they witnessed everything. The townspeople's response would reveal their values: Would they rejoice in the man's liberation or resent economic loss? This sets up revealing conclusion: they prioritize profits over person, ultimately asking Jesus to leave (Mark 5:17). Their rejection demonstrates hardened hearts valuing material wealth above spiritual transformation.

## Historical Context

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News spread quickly in ancient communities—word-of-mouth was primary communication. The economic loss affected many—herd owners, swineherds, merchants, consumers. The destroyed herd represented substantial wealth. The townspeople's investigation shows curiosity but also concern about further disruptions. Their eventual request for Jesus to leave reveals materialistic values. Mark's account demonstrates that miracles don't automatically produce faith—hardened hearts resist despite evidence. Early church experienced this: some believed after witnessing miracles; others opposed despite overwhelming evidence. Church history repeats pattern: spiritual truth confronts material interests, and many choose possessions over salvation.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond when following Jesus costs materially—with joy over spiritual gain or resentment over temporal loss?
2. What does the townspeople's investigation reveal about curiosity versus genuine seeking?
3. How does this passage warn against prioritizing economic security over spiritual transformation?

## Interlinear Text

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οἱ	δὲ	βόσκοντες	τοὺς	χοίρους	ἔφυγον	καὶ	ἀνήγγειλάν	
G3588	And	they that fed	G3588	the swine	fled	And	told	
	G1161	G1006		G5519	G5343	G2532	G312	
εἰς	τὴν	πόλιν	καὶ	εἰς	τοὺς	ἀγρούς·	καὶ	ἐξῆλθον
in	G3588	the city	And	in	G3588	the country	And	they went out
G1519		G4172	G2532	G1519		G68	G2532	G1831
ἰδεῖν	τί	ἐστίν	τὸ	γεγονός				
to see	what	it was	G3588	that was done				
G1492	G5101	G2076		G1096				

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