

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

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 ἐστιν τὸ γεγονός
to see **what** **it was** G3588 **that was done**
G1492 G5101 G2076 G1096

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