

# Matthew 8:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

## Analysis

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The demons' petition to 'send us away into the herd of swine' reveals they could not act without Christ's permission, demonstrating His absolute sovereignty over the spirit realm. That they must ask permission shows even in their rebellion, demons remain under God's control, able to do only what He permits for His purposes. Their request also reveals the destructive bent of demonic nature—unable to possess humans, they'll settle for destroying animals.

## Historical Context

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The demons' petition and Jesus' permission (verse 32) shows that Satan and demons can only do what God permits within His sovereign purposes (Job 1-2). This provides comfort that no spiritual warfare occurs outside God's control and that His purposes prevail even through demonic activity.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What does the demons' need for Christ's permission teach about God's sovereignty over all spiritual forces?
2. How should this account of Christ's authority over demons strengthen your confidence during spiritual warfare?

## Interlinear Text

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οἱ	δὲ	δαίμονες	παρεκάλουν	αὐτὸν	λέγοντες	Εἰ
G3588	<b>So</b>	<b>the devils</b>	<b>besought</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>saying</b>	<b>If</b>
	G1161	G1142	G3870	G846	G3004	G1487
ἐκβάλλεις	ἡμᾶς	ἐπίτρεπον	ἡμῖν	ἀπελθεῖν	εἰς	τὴν
<b>out</b>	<b>us</b>	<b>suffer</b>	<b>us</b>	<b>to go away</b>	<b>into</b>	G3588
G1544	G2248	G2010	G2254	G565	G1519	
ἀγέλην	τῶν	χοίρων				
<b>the herd</b>	G3588	<b>of swine</b>				
G34		G5519				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 5:12** (Evil): And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.