

Matthew 8:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils.

Analysis

The swine herders' witness 'told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils' demonstrates they recognized the connection between the exorcism and the pigs' destruction. Their thorough reporting to the city spread the news widely, creating opportunity for mass evangelism. Yet the response would be tragic—the people valued their livestock more than the Deliverer in their midst. This illustrates that even undeniable miracles don't guarantee right response without heart transformation.

Historical Context

The herders fled to the nearby city (Gadara or Gerasa) reporting what they'd witnessed. This created a dilemma—Jesus had demonstrated power over spiritual forces and compassion for the afflicted, but at significant economic cost. The subsequent rejection shows fallen humanity's tendency to prioritize material concerns over spiritual realities.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the detailed witness of the herders demonstrate that the miracle was public, verified, and undeniable?
2. What does this passage teach about how economic interests can blind people to spiritual reality and salvation opportunities?

Interlinear Text

οἱ δὲ βόσκοντες ἔφυγον καὶ ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὴν
G3588 And they that kept them fled and went their ways into G3588
G1161 G1006 G5343 G2532 G565 G1519

πόλιν ἀπήγγειλαν πάντα καὶ τὰ τῶν
the city and told every thing and G3588 G3588
G4172 G518 G3956 G2532

δαιμονιζομένων

what was befallen to the possessed of the devils

G1139

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