

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