

Jesus Heals the Man with Many Spirits

Jesus encounters a man possessed by many unclean spirits in the region of the Gadarenes and sets him free.

Mark 5:1-20 • Luke 8:26-39 • Matthew 8:28-34

CHARACTERS: Jesus, The possessed man, Disciples, Townspeople

THEMES: Jesus' power over evil, Transformation, Testimony, Restoration

THEY WENT ACROSS the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived among the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, 'What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!' For Jesus had said to him, 'Come out of this man, you impure spirit!'

Then Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?'

'My name is Legion,' he replied, 'for we are many.' And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The spirits begged Jesus, 'Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.' He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside. When the people came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. The people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, 'Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.' So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

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