

August 24

Right-Minded Demoniac, Frightened Countrymen

Come, and hear, all you who fear God.
I will declare what he has done for my soul. – Psalm 66:16

[Mark 5:1-20, Gadara] They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. When he had come out of the boat, immediately an exceedingly fierce man of the city with an unclean spirit met him out of the tombs. He had demons for a long time, wore no clothes, and didn't live in a house, but lived in the tombs. Nobody could bind him any more, not even with chains, because he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him, and the fetters broken in pieces. Nobody had the strength to tame him. Always, night and day, in the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out, and cutting himself with stones, [and] nobody could pass that way. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him and bowed down to him, and crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have I to do with you, Jesus, you Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, don't torment me before the time." For he said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

He asked him, "What is your name?"

He said to him, "My name is Legion, for we are many." (For many demons had entered into him). He begged him much that he would not send them away out of the country and would not command them to go into the abyss. Now on the mountainside far away from them

there was a great herd of pigs feeding. All the demons begged him, saying, "Send us into the pigs, that we may enter into them."

Tell them what great things
the Lord has done for you

At once Jesus gave them permission. The unclean spirits came out from the man and entered into the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and they were drowned in the sea. Those who fed them fled, and told it in the city and in the country.

All the people of the surrounding country came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus, and saw him who had been possessed by demons sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed, and in his right mind, even him who had the legion; and they were afraid. Those who saw it declared to them how it happened to him who was possessed by demons, and about the pigs. They began to beg him to depart from their region for they were very much afraid.

As he was entering into the boat, he who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. He didn't allow him, but said to him, "Go to your house, to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how he had mercy on you."

He went his way, and began to proclaim in Decapolis how Jesus had done great things for him, and everyone marveled.

1. How would the demoniac's friends (no match for ~2000 "guests") feel before and after?
2. How does this story relate to the calmed sea? Can you tell your friends of God's work?
3. Jesus, you have set me free from millions of sins; today I will go and tell others how...