

*And they [Jesus and His disciples] arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against [across the lake from] Galilee. And when he went forth to land [When Jesus had stepped out on land], there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not." (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him [the demon took control of the man]: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters [shackles]; and he brake the bands [broke the chains], and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) And Jesus asked him, saying, "What is thy name?" And he said, "Legion<sup>1</sup>": because many devils were entered into him. And they [the demons] besought him [asked Jesus] that he would not command them to go out into the deep<sup>2</sup> [abyss]. And there was there an herd of many swine [pigs] feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer [allow] them to enter into them [the pigs]. And he suffered [allowed] them. Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked [drowned]. When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed [how Jesus healed the man]. Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again [went back to Galilee]. Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be [stay] with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee." And he went his way, and published [proclaimed] throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people [of Galilee] gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.*

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<sup>1</sup> The term "Legion" is a military term, roughly the same size as a modern brigade. The Roman Legions conquered most of the known world during the height of the Roman Empire. During Roman times a Legion consisted of between 5000 and 6500 men. The inference here is that many demons possessed this man and gave him superhuman strength.

<sup>2</sup> The "Deep" or "Abyss" is also called the "bottomless pit" seven times in Revelation: 9:1, 2, 11; 11:7, 8; 20:1, 3. It is called the deep here and in Romans 10:7. From the usage of the term, it is the place most demons are kept awaiting the end times.

## I. Introduction

### A. Jesus meets the Maniac of Gadara

A. Gadara across the Sea of Galilee in gentile region called Decapolis ("10 cities").

B. Gadara is on the southeast coast of the Sea of Galilee.

B. Today's popular (worldly) culture has many examples of demonic influences in movies, songs, TV shows, games, elsewhere. Christians should not be involved with anything ungodly, especially if it's focused on the demonic.

## II. Presence of the Demons

### A. Spiritual diagnosis

1. Demonic power displayed in this man's condition

2. Man's physical condition result of his spiritual condition.

a. No modesty: wore no clothes

b. No shelter: lived in an unsanitary cemetery<sup>3</sup> (among the dead)

c. No safety: harmed himself by cutting, see Mark 5:5

d. No social interaction: had superhuman strength to break chains

e. No freedom: not in his right mind, without hope, self-control or self-determination

3. Jesus shows His complete power over the spirit world in this episode. People think knowledge of Jesus is the same as a relationship with Jesus. Head knowledge is important, but true salvation changes the heart.

### B. Demonic dilemma (problem)

1. Demons recognized Jesus immediately as Son of God

2. Man (full of demons) shouted & fell down in front of Jesus

*James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

3. Demons begged Him not to cast him into 'the deep' (see footnote, page 1).

4. There were many demons within this man, (see footnote, page 1).

## III. Proclamation of Deliverance

### A. Command of Jesus

1. Jesus ordered demons to come out of the man.

2. Jesus interviewed the demons, showing His disciples what evil He was dealing with.

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<sup>3</sup> People often go to cemeteries to visit and care for the graves of their loved ones. Some oriental cultures actually (and wrongly) worship their dead relatives' spirits. This man would have prevented local people from doing any of that.

- a. Jesus asks for their name – Legion
  - b. Demons asked for mercy, and Jesus granted their request.
3. The pig-herders ran into the city to tell about the episode.

B. Control of Satan

- 1. Demon activity
  - a. Demons drove man into the wilderness
  - b. Demons destructive to living things
    - i. Demons went into herd of pigs (about 2000) –Mark 5:13
    - ii. Entire herd ran down into water drowning themselves
  - c. Man's outward behavior is a picture of inward control of demons
- 2. Satan and his demons want to enslave people
 

*2 Timothy 2:26 And that they [unsaved] may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*
- 3. Satan knows his final destiny is controlled by God.
  - a. Was thrown out of heaven – Isaiah 14:12-15, Luke 10:18
  - b. Due to pride – Ezekiel 28:15-17
  - c. Took one-third of angels with him – Rev 12:3-4
  - d. Has a place prepared by God for him – Matthew 25:41, Rev 20:10

C. Conquest of Christ

- 1. Jesus displayed His power over the spiritual world with only His word.
- 2. All must in the end obey in the name of Jesus
 

*Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*
- 3. Demons must obey in the name of Jesus
 

*Acts 16:18 And this did she [demon-possessed slave girl] many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*
- 4. Jesus can command many legions of angels
 

*Matthew 26:53 Thinkest thou [Peter] that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*

IV. The Peace for the Redeemed

A. His sanity

- 1. Man clothed, calm, conversant, and coherent (in his right mind).

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

2. People were still afraid of the man because of his past

B. His salvation

1. He sat at the feet of Jesus, learning of Him with His disciples. Each of us is offered this same benefit
  - a. We too can be delivered from addiction by substances, sin, and Satan
  - b. We too can be delivered from worldly, fleshly, and demonic influences
  - c. We too can be delivered from eternal separation from God

C. His surrender

1. He wanted to go with Jesus as a disciple after his healing, leaving his past and his people
2. But Jesus told him to stay in the area and be a witness, telling his all what He had done for him
3. The healed man obeyed Jesus, showing and proclaiming his salvation in his house to his family and the whole city.

V. Conclusion

A. People of Gadara area wanted Jesus to leave

1. No specific reason is given. Loss of the pigs could be part of the reason
2. The people of Galilee glad to see Jesus come back

B. Healed man's testimony made big difference in the city