

- Luke 8:26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.
- Luke 8:27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.
- Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me."
- Luke 8:29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)
- Luke 8:30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him.
- Luke 8:31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.
- Luke 8:32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.

Luke 8:33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

Luke 8:34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.

Luke 8:35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

Luke 8:36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.

Luke 8:37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

Luke 8:38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,

Luke 8:39 “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Luke 8:26 Then they sailed to the country of the **Gerasenes** (also **Gadarenes**), which is opposite Galilee.

Luke 8:29 For he had commanded **the unclean spirit** to come out of the man. (For many a time **it had seized him**. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)

Gerasenes means “strangers come near” and Gadarenes means “the last reward”. These two words means that in our whole life “one comes and one goes away”. In these verses, one can see that during our whole life we may just be surrounded with demon-possessed men, demons (name: Legion), and pigs (~2000). It means that we are living among the tombs. That is why 1 John 5:19b says that “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one”.

The demon-possessed man is not in control of himself, violent and in pain, but our Lord cherishes each one of them and loves to save every one.

Matt. 8:28 And when he came to the other side, to the country of the **Gadarenes**, two **demon-possessed men** met him, coming out of the **tombs**, so fierce that no one could pass that way.

Mar 5:13 So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered **the pigs**; and the herd, **numbering about two thousand**, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

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The purpose of Jesus crossing over to the other side was to meet the demon-possessed man. Jesus made the trip to seek only one man. While He was crossing the sea with His disciples, Satan and his host of fallen angels strongly opposed Him. When Jesus spoke to crowds of people, or when He was speaking in the house to a crowd of people, there was no opposition from Satan. However, when He went to seek out one man, there was tremendous opposition. Why? Because through one man, a whole city came to hear the gospel.

Do we seek the one lost person, or are we satisfied to speak to a "crowd" of people? Are we satisfied with Bible studies, or do we think of unsaved people, or brothers and sisters who do not want to attend Bible studies, and consider how they can be attracted to the Lord, or how they can operate in the church life? Such a labor is hard because our rejection rate will be quite high, according to our experience! We may go to one person, and he or she may not be willing. We need to then go to another person. If we do not go to individual people, we may fool ourselves into thinking that we are growing by studying the Bible and attending gatherings. There may be little opposition. When we seek the lost ones, there will be opposition because Satan knows that if one person gets saved, that person can preach the gospel to many others.

Luke 8:34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.

Luke 8:35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and **found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind**, and they were afraid.

Luke 8:36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.

The Lord Jesus would rather sacrifice ~ two thousand pigs (**Mark 5:13**) which were not of any interest to many people, in order to save a person. How precious it is in the eyes of the Lord to heal us.

Those who have received the salvation of Christ must: (1) rest in Him - "sit at the feet of Jesus"; (2) have the covering of the robe of Christ's righteousness - "wear clothes"; (3) the heart enlightened to know God and spiritual things – "in his right mind".

Luke 8:37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.him.

When a brother or sister is saved, or when a brother or sister begins to grow in the divine life and love Jesus, how do we react? The herdsmen and the Gadarenes begged Jesus to leave their district, even though a demon-possessed man had been restored. They were perhaps afraid of the effect of Jesus on their lives. They had just lost all their pigs, and so they asked Jesus to depart from them.

Are we willing to allow Jesus to rearrange our lives, especially when it comes to shepherding a new believer? To take care of people is not easy. To raise up a pillar in the church life is even harder. We may have to rearrange our schedule, even our job, to serve people, especially if we are working brothers and sisters. Rather than rejoice that the demon-possessed man was now fully clothed and in his right mind, the Gadarene inhabitants persuaded Jesus to make a hasty departure from their city. We may be the same way. We may allow the Lord in our lives to a certain extent, but only so far. We may not be willing for Him to readjust us and perfect us. For example, whenever a brother or sister begins to show signs of growth and hunger for the Lord, are we ready to accompany them, to pray for them in our team? Every time someone is saved or begins to pursue in the church life, it is an opportunity for us (the saints) to grow, to welcome the Lord into our life, and not to chase Him away.

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The pig herdsman typify a group of people in a crowd or society, and they appear to be normal on the outside. They are tirelessly engaged in various occupations day and night, but their work is neither for God nor for the church. Here they feared the fact that they had lost about 2000 pigs which was, to them, much more important than the healing of one demon-possessed man, and that was why they asked the Lord to depart from them. And the Lord Jesus indeed left. How about us?

Luke 8:38 The man from whom the demons had gone **begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,**

Luke 8:39 **“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.”** And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

It is crucial to be a witness of the Lord's doing, which is to declare how much God has done for us to our family members and neighbors. This saved person did just that. Praise our Lord.

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We often think that a new believer needs to pursue the Bible or learn how to pray. All these things are necessary. However, in this case, Jesus did not allow the healed man to accompany Him, but rather sent him back to his home to testify what Jesus had done for him.

Do we bring new believers to preach the gospel? We may think that they need to grow or know the Bible before they can speak. This is not the case. In this case, as well as the case of the Samaritan woman in John 4, both individuals testified about Jesus, according to their level of life. This shows that however weak our testimony may be, we can still testify what the Lord has done for us, starting with our own family, and eventually the city where we live. Before the pandemic, we went out every Lord's Day, after the meeting, to preach the gospel. Some sisters and younger brothers would take new believers with them every time to preach the gospel. What an example of gospel preaching! Sometimes, we feel that we need to know the Bible and the truth much more, and this is true. But do we pay attention to the preaching of the gospel? Do we bring new believers to preach the gospel with us?