



Bible Story #2

Jesus and the Demonic Man

(Mark 5:1-20)

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Jesus and His disciples went across the Sea of Galilee to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs [burial caves or cemetery] to meet Him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to control him. 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? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit." Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied "My name is Legion, 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 demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." So Jesus gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, immediately rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned."

The herdsman tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons sitting there, fully dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with Him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own family and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you."

So the man went to the Decapolis (10 cities near each other and joined by an alliance) and told them what great things the Lord had done for him and how He had had mercy on him. And all the people were amazed.

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