

## The Power of the King—Part 6 Matthew 8:28-34

### Demonology:

- Demons are fallen angels (cf. Rev. 12:3-4, 8-9)
- Satan is NOT a god (cf. Isa. 14:12ff; Ezek. 28:13-17)
- Angels & demons are engaged in a spiritual war (cf. Rev. 12:7; Dan. 10:12-13; 2 Kings 6:16-17)
- There are ranks of demons (cf. Eph. 6:10-2)
- Jesus wins! (cf. Rev. 20:10)

#### I. Two Demon-possessed Men (v. 28)

- a. **Gardarenes** refers to the capital of the area and **Gerasenes** refers to the nearby city (cf. Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26)
- b. Matthew records two men, while Mark & Luke record only one. Ancient writers often only mention the individual who talks (cf. Matt. 20:29; 28:2-7; Mark 10:46; 16:5-8; Luke 18:35; 24:4-7)
- c. Demons may completely control an unbeliever (cf. Luke 8:27; Mark 5:3-5)
  - i. **Daimonizomai** (δαιμονίζομαι) = lived in or indwelt by a demon (cf. Matt. 4:24; 8:16; 12:22; 15:22; Mark 1:32; 5:15; Luke 8:36; John 10:21)

#### II. One Legion of Demons (v. 29)

- a. Demons can be so dominant that they virtually erase/block their human host.
- b. **Legion** = more than one demon can possess someone (cf. Matt. 12:43-45; Mark 5:9; Luke 8:30)
- c. Demons have an understanding of eschatology (cf. Matt. 25:41; Phil. 2:10-11; James. 2:19; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 11:15)
- d. Demons know Jesus and fear Him! (cf. Matt. 4:3; 14:33; 16:16; 27:43, 54; James 2:19)

- i. **proskuneō** (προσκυνέω) = “worship,” “to prostrate oneself before someone as an act of reverence, fear, or supplication” (cf. Matt. 2:2; Phil. 2:10; Rev. 3:9)

#### III. Two Thousand Swine (vs. 30-31)

- a. Matthew’s “many swine” is clarified by Mark as “about two thousand of them” (cf. Mark 5:13)
- b. Believers CANNOT be possessed by demons (cf. Eph. 1:13-14; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19)
- c. We don’t know why the demons wanted to go into the swine, maybe to avoid the abyss??? (cf. 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)
- d. Demons are limited by time and space.

#### IV. One Word of Command (v. 32)

- a. Jesus’ disciples required prayer & fasting to cast out demons, but He only needed one word! (cf. Matt. 17:21; Mark 9:29)
- b. We don’t know why the swine ran into the sea, but it was a visible sign of Jesus casting out the demons.
- c. Scripture does not command/mention Christians to cast out demons; instead, we are to:
  - i. Put on the full armor of God (Eph. 6:11)
  - ii. Submit to God & Resist the devil (James 4:7)
  - iii. Be of sober spirit & be on the alert (1 Peter 5:8)
  - iv. Do not give the devil an opportunity/foehold (Eph. 4:27)

#### V. One Whole City of Lost Opportunity (vs. 33-34)

- a. This city stands in stark contrast that of the Samaritan woman at the well (cf. John 4; Mark 5:15)

#### VI. One Faithful Man (Mark 5:18-20)

- a. At least one of the previously demon-possessed men was saved and wanted to follow Jesus, but He sent him to evangelize his Gentile countrymen.