JESUS DELIVERS THE GADARENE MANIAC

Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

Ms
main street

October 16, 2011

BIBLE VERSE
COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Mark 5:19

…tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.

STORY LESSON
BIBLE STORY

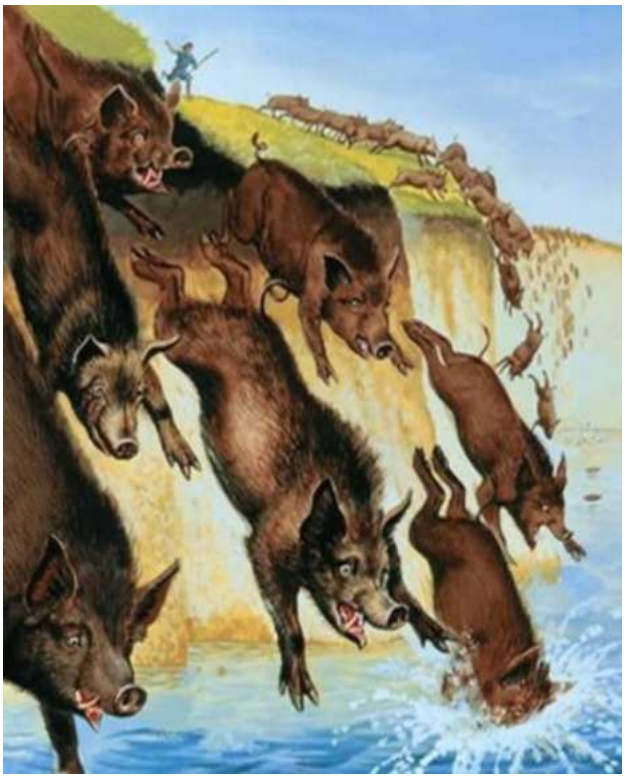
Jesus traveled to the region of the Gerasenes across the lake. When he got out of the boat he was confronted by a crazed, demonic, lunatic who was often chained hand and foot, but always broke loose because nothing was strong enough to subdue him—that is until the power of God came to town. This Gadarene manic was probably naked and he roamed "night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones" (Mark 5:5).

The demon-possessed man fell on his knees at Jesus' feet shouting:

"What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" (Mark 5:7).

Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Jesus asked the demon his name and he replied: "My name is Legion… for we are many" (Mark 5:9). The demon pleaded with Jesus not to send them out of the area. They asked Jesus to send them into the pigs and he gave them permission.

As soon as they entered the pigs, "the herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned" (Mark 5:13).



The pig herders rushed into town and reported to the people what had happened, so they all ran out to see. "When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, in his right mind; and they were afraid" (Mark 5:15). They asked Jesus to leave their region because of their fear.

However, the delivered maniac begged for Jesus to take him with. "Jesus did not let him, but said, 'Go home to your family and *tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you*'" (Mark 5:19). And so the man went and began to tell about "how much Jesus had done for him…and all the people were amazed" (Mark 5:20).

You see, demons can see what we humans often cannot see. They know when they are confronted with God, and all they can do is speak his name and cower.

LIFE APPLICATION
MAKING IT REAL

Go and Tell
This story is an example of how someone's life is radically changed by Jesus and then this person goes and tells everyone he/she knows about what God has done in his/her life. So the question is: do you go and tell about how Jesus has changed your life, made you a different person than who you used to be? This ex-demon possessed guy could not be kept quiet! In fact, most people whom Jesus healed, even when they were told not to tell anyone, could not keep quite. They were so excited that Jesus had healed them in some way, that they could not but insist they share this GOOD NEWS!

Be Careful of the Demonic Realm
Our culture seems fascinated by spirituality, particularly magic, wizards and witches, draculas, werewolves, etc. While some of this makes for a fascinating read, we have to be careful and wise about our involvement is in these arenas. Sure they are great for the imagination, but we need to be very cautious how much we allow our imaginations to be carried away by things that are not of God, and exist in the light.

QUESTIONS
REMEMBERING

1. **What was wrong with the man who was hanging out in the cemetery?** He was possessed by a demon

2. **In what region did this maniac live?** Garasenes

3. **When Jesus asked what the demons name was, what did he say?** His name is Legion, for we are many

4. **What did the demons say to Jesus when they saw him?** "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" (Mark 5:7)

5. **Where did the demons get sent into? A herd of pigs**

6. **What happened to the pigs after the demons went into them? The rushed into the lake and were drowned**

7. **After Jesus had left, what did the man who WAS possessed by a demon do?** And so the man went and began to tell about "how much Jesus had done for him… and all the people were amazed" (Mark 5:20)

COLORING SHEET
ON THE NEXT PAGE

JESUS DELIVERS THE GADARENE MANIAC