

### ***"I met the man named Jesus!"***

*"As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him, 'Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you'" (Mark 5:18-19).*

The historical account of the healing of the demoniac is recorded in three of the four gospels. Mark provides a substantial amount of space to this miracle in his brief and fast-paced account of Jesus' life. As you investigate with help from the Holy Spirit the immediate rescue of this man, the pigs, the many demons named "Legion", and the surrounding country of the Gerasenes, there are many unique details that make this miracle come to life. But without trying to figure out what breed of pigs these were, or approximately how high the cliff was that they jumped off into the sea. I want to narrow our focus at the commission that Jesus gave this man after he was healed from demon possession: "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you."

Using a little imagination alongside the text, you can't help but wonder what this man was thinking as he was approaching his hometown. He had been basically insane for some time, but now, after a touch from the Great Physician, he was thinking more clearly than ever before. Joy, peace, the anticipation of a new and fresh start at life...Perhaps he had a wife and some kids at home. It could have been months, maybe even years, since he had spoken to them in his right mind. Is it possible that his wife and kids had been praying for him all this time in hopes that their dad would come back from the darkness of the terrible tombs of Legion?

Now in sight for the first time in way too long is this man's home in which satan had dragged him away from... He begins to smile and turns his walk into a jog. A little boy turns from playing in the yard and sees his daddy. Running out the front door is a precious little girl. She stops in her tracks when she sees her daddy, and she begins to scream with enthusiasm that only a daughter can have for her daddy: "Mommy, Mommy, Daddy is finally home!!!" The jog becomes a sprint, and he gives the biggest bear hug possible to his son and daughter. Tears are coming down their faces as his wife then steps out of the doorway... She thinks to herself in utter amazement: "How can this be? What changed him? Is this really happening, right now?" She falls to her knees as they all cry together and embrace one another in love.

The daughter asks, "Daddy, what made you come home? You look so different and seem so much better?" Wiping the tears from his eyes, the man then looks at his children and beloved wife and says, "I met the man named Jesus. He is the Son of the Most High God. Let me tell you what He has done for me..."

Have you met the man named Jesus? Will you go home and testify about His mercy and grace? Will you pray for the broken homes of this country? And that the leaders in those homes will encounter Jesus, the Son of the Most High God? Because truly everything changes when someone meets the man named Jesus!

Respect the Blood,  
Dalton Mathis