



Repentance Tabernacle Church

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

An Encounter with Jesus will Make a Difference!

Scripture: Luke 8:26-39 – (Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20)

The Gadarene country was a Gentile region southeast of the Sea of Galilee, home of Decapolis, or the Ten Towns. These were Greek cities that belonged to no country and were self-governing and largely inhabited by Gentiles. Although Jews would not have raised pigs because the Jewish religion labeled them unclean animals (Leviticus 11:7) and thus unfit to eat, the Gentiles had no objection to them. According to Jewish ceremonial laws, the men Jesus encountered were unclean in three ways: They were Gentiles (non-Jews), they were demon-possessed, and they lived in a graveyard. Jesus helped them anyway. **We should not turn our backs on people who are “unclean” or repulsive to us or who violate our moral standards and religious beliefs.** Instead, we must realize that every human individual is a unique creation of God who needs to be touched by His love.

These devils recognized Jesus and His authority immediately. They knew who He was and what His great power could do to them. That’s why the devils asked if Jesus had come to torment them “before the time,” they showed they knew their ultimate fate. When the devils entered the pigs, they drove the animals into the sea. **The devils’ action proves their destructive intent—if they could not destroy the men, they would destroy the pigs.** Jesus’ action, by contrast, shows the value He places on each human life. They are defeated and powerless against those who trust in Jesus. If we resist the devil and his influences, he will flee from us (James 4:7).

Devils (or demons), Satan’s messengers, are powerful and destructive. Still active today, unclean spirits use the human body to attempt to distort and destroy man’s relationship with God and likeness to Him. They are dangerous, powerful, and destructive. Demons and demon possession are real. It is important that the child of God recognize their evil activity so we can stay away from them, we must avoid any curiosity about or involvement with demonic forces or the occult (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

Why didn’t Jesus just destroy these demons—or send them to the deep? Because the time of judgment had not yet come. He healed many people of the destructive effects of demon possession, but He did not yet destroy demons. The same question could be asked today—why doesn’t Jesus stop all the evil in the world? His time for that has not yet come. But it will come. The book of Revelation portrays the future victory of Jesus over Satan, his demons and all evil.

After such a wonderful miracle of saving a man’s life, why did the people ask Jesus to leave? Unlike their own pagan gods, Jesus could not be contained, controlled, or appeased. They feared Jesus’ supernatural power, a power they had never before witnessed. And they were upset about losing a herd of pigs more than they were glad about the deliverance of the devil-possessed men. **Are you more concerned about property and programs than people?** Human beings are created in God’s image and have eternal value. How foolish and yet how easy it is to value possessions, investments, and even animals above human life. Throughout history most wars have been fought to protect economic interests. Much injustice and oppression, both at home and abroad, is the direct fallout of some individual’s or company’s urge to get rich. People are continually being sacrificed to the god of money. Don’t think more highly of “pigs” than of people. Think carefully about how your decisions will affect other human beings, and be willing to choose a simpler life-style if it would keep other people from being harmed.

Often Jesus asked those He healed to be quiet about the healing, but He urged this man to return to his family and tell them what God had done for him. Why? **(1)** He knew the man would be an effective witness to those who knew his previous condition and could attest to the miraculous healing. **(2)** This was mainly a Gentile and pagan area, so Jesus was not expecting great crowds to follow Him or religious leaders to hinder Him. **(3)** By sending the man away with this good news, Jesus was expanding His ministry to people who were not Jews.

The Bible tells us that at the end of the world Satan and his angels will be thrown in the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:14). If you have experienced Jesus’ power in your life, are you, like this man, enthusiastic about sharing the Good News with those around you? Just as we would tell others about a doctor who cured a physical disease, we should tell about Christ who cures our sin. **Therefore, when God touches your life, don’t be afraid to share the wonderful events with your family and friends.**