

Mark 5:1-13. *The context to testify*. The students of Yeshua had just seen the Christ tell a scary storm on the lake to cool it. Afraid for their lives initially, their fear turned into reverent terror when they realized their teacher was even able to control the weather. So, they get safely across the lake only to find an area filled with pagans—Gerasenes.⁸ Sure enough, when Jesus the Christ got out of their boat, a dude filled with evil came out from the tombs where he had been living.

You see, this guy was so out of it that he couldn't be bound by chains—iron chains no less. Nobody was strong enough to restrain him. 24-7 he would cry out from the tombs and hills, even cutting himself with sharp rocks. Anyway, this guy wanted to see Jesus...

From a distance, he ran, fell at His feet, on his knees no less. Shouting at the top of his voice, he screamed—

What do you want with me Yeshua, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God you won't torture me. [You see, Jesus had already commanded—Come out of this man, you evil spirit!]

Then Jesus asked, *What is your name?* The man responded: *My name is Leg-eeey-own—for we are polloi* [numerous]. He continued to beg Jesus not to send them out of the area. As it turns out, there were about two thousand pigs feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, *Send us among the pigs—allow us to go into them*. So, Christ gave them permission and the evil spirits came out and enjoyed porcine housing—for a while. But then, the herd rushed down the steep bank and were drowned in the lake. No barbeque tonight.

- Q Why would the Christ waste His time with the pagans who violated the Law? Jews first?
- Q How did the man know that this Jesus of Nazareth was the “Son of the Most High God?”
- Q What did the man want from Jesus? To whom did Jesus ask his question, “What is your name?”
- Q Who was afraid of the evil spirits leaving the man, or the evil spirits?
- Q Why did they seek home in pigs of all things? How did they get into the pigs? [Jesus “gave them permission.”]
- Q Why did the pigs careen down into the lake—what happened to their sense of self-preservation?

MARK 5:1-13

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.

²When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil [or “unclean”] spirit came from the tombs to meet him.

³This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. ⁴For 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 subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷He 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!” ⁸For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!”

⁹Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.”

¹⁰And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.

¹²The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” ¹³He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

⁸Located about 35 miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee. It may have had holdings on the eastern shore of the Sea, giving its name to a small village there now known as Khersa. About one mile south is a fairly steep slope within 40 yards of the shore, and about two miles from there are cavern tombs that appear to have been used as dwellings.

Mark 5:14-20. *The command to testify*. Needless to say, the pig shepherds were freaked; they told folks in town and country what had happened. Wow—we've got see this, and sure enough the people went out to see what had happened. When the townsfolk came to Jesus, they saw the man who was possessed by a whole bunch of demons, sitting there, nicely dressed, and most importantly—in his right mind. They were freaked, so freaked they implored Jesus—please leave.

Being a rather civil person, Jesus the Christ in this instance at least, was in the process of leaving in their boat when the man who had been possessed begged to go with Jesus.

Jesus prevented him, and told him—

Go home. Find your family, tell them how much the Master has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.

The man did as he was told; going throughout the ten cities, proclaiming how much Jesus had done for him. People, all the people, were amazed.

- Q Why were the folk impressed with two thousand pigs dying? Why were they afraid?
- Q To what extent was their response due to the man of the tombs recovery versus the rather odd behavior of the pig herd?
- Q Why did Jesus comply with their wish for Him to get out of Dodge?
- Q Why did the man of the tombs want to go with Jesus? [He was now in his right mind.]
- Q Why didn't Yeshua let him join the group of believers?
- Q What did He command the man of the tombs to do? What was the message he was to bear witness to? [How much the Lord had done, and how mercy was shown to him.]
- Q Why was mercy extended to the man of the tombs?
- Q What did Christ Jesus do for the man of the tombs which amazed all the people of the ten cities?
- Q What made his testimony credible? Why were they "amazed?"
- Q What makes your testimony credible?
- Q How do people impeach the witness of believers—
 1. The witness may be shown to be deliberately lying.
 2. The witness is trying to tell the truth, but appears to be mistaken because he or she saw the event incorrectly, has forgotten parts, misinterpreted what happened.
 3. The witness may be telling half-truths, exaggerating parts, or omitting details out of embarrassment, love, anger, political beliefs, or other emotions.

MARK 5:14-20

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹Jesus 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." ²⁰So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis [i.e., the "ten cities"] how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.