



Chapter 8:28-34

- Matt. 8:28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.
- Matt. 8:29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”
- Matt. 8:30 Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding.
- Matt. 8:31 So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.”
- Matt. 8:32 And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.
- Matt. 8:33 Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.
- Matt. 8:34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

Context & Background

Of all the accounts in the Gospels in which Jesus battles with demons, this account receives the most attention. In fact Matthew Mark & Luke devote *more ink* to this conflict than any other battle with demons including Jesus’ battle with Satan in the wilderness! Obviously then there are some important truths about spiritual warfare that Jesus wants us to learn from this account.

Observations & Discussion

Go back and read Mark 4:35; whose idea was it to head across the lake? Now consider this; this is the **only** time in Jesus' ministry that he visited this side of the Sea of Galilee. That's because the area was populated by Gentiles & Jesus was called to minister primarily to the "lost sheep of Israel" (see Matt. 15:24 & 10:5-6)—not the Gentiles. With all that in mind consider these questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus wanted to cross the lake? What does your answer tell you about Jesus? What does this tell you about Jesus' plan for every human being?

2. Read Mark's parallel account in Mark 5:3-5. Describe the effects of demon possession upon these two men. What does this tell you about Satan's plan for every human being?

3. What had people done to try to control these men? What does that tell you about the power of Man against the power of Satan?

4. How do people become demon-possessed? Provide a scripture to support your view.

5. Can Christian's be demon-possessed? Provide a scripture to support your view.