



1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

March 8, 2025

Jesus restores two demon possessed men

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Foster Care Teens

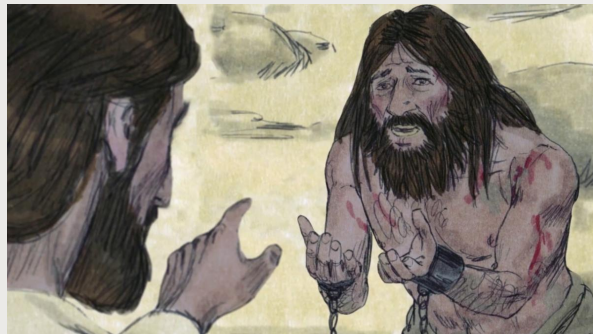
Personal Care Items

We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens

See the sidebar for our new TEXT Prayer Request Line!
Simply text "I need prayer" to 844-533-3553 anytime,
and our team of Prayer Warriors will be praying for you.

Remember
Midweek Thursday Youth service 7pm!

Sunday



Jesus restores two demon possessed men

A couple of Sundays ago, we talked about an interesting short story that appears in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, that many may just get read over without much thought about it. But, we remembered that in **John 21:25**, John mentions that "Jesus did many things that were not written down".

Therefore, we decided, that whatever was written down and included in the Bible must have a purpose for being there. We said that it must be especially important for all three writers to have included it.

We looked at this story specifically as told in **Matthew 8:28-34** but also included some parts from **Mark 5:1-20** and from **Luke 8:26-39** for a more complete story.

It seems there were a couple of demon possessed violent men running around naked in a graveyard and

are being collected in the bin located on tables in the hall. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

----- This Week's Bible Verses

Matthew 8:28-34

²⁸ When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.
²⁹ "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"
³⁰ Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding.
³¹ The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."
³² He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water.
³³ Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

³⁴ Then the whole town went out to meet

causing a lot of trouble for the local townspeople.

We said that this is one of those little stories told that we most likely just read over without giving it much thought but when you look deeper into it, there is so much more the story tells us.

We first looked at the location being in Gadarenes which was a town of mostly Greek Gentiles. The fact that they were herding pigs also tells us that they were Gentiles as Jews would never be herding pigs as they were considered to be unclean.

The two men were actually considered unclean in multiple ways. They were Gentiles, they were filled with demons, and they were living in a graveyard among dead bodies. **Yet, Jesus crossed the sea to save them.**

We said, this is important to note as it shows that the salvation that Jesus brings is not only for the Jews but for the Gentiles and others considered to be "unclean" as well. We said that it shows we should not turn our backs on those in need no matter who or where they are. We are all created in God's image to be loved equally and unconditionally, and Jesus will always go out of His way to save each and every one of us.

The 2nd thing that we noticed was that while the Disciples were still trying to figure out exactly who Jesus was, the demons immediately recognized Jesus as the **Son of God** and were terrified of what He might do to them. They were afraid Jesus might bring God's final judgement on them before it was their time.

This story also helps show that Jesus' power (God's power) is without limits as He delivered the two men from a legion (6k) of demons and sent them into a herd of 2000 pigs. There is none of us who are "too far gone" or any situation beyond His ability.

While the text does not explain why the demons wanted to be sent into the pigs, we discussed some possible reasons such as from Matthew 12:3, that when demons go out of a man, they wander seeking rest but find none. We said maybe they were must hoping for another body to possess.

Maybe, they were planning to drive the pigs into the water, killing the entire herd and causing financial harm to the people causing them to reject Jesus. We mentioned that demons truly are only evil.

This brought up an even bigger question that is also not included in the text. Knowing what would happen,

Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

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why did Jesus allow the demons to enter the herd of pigs rather than just letting them wander in unrest?

We said that maybe this was also part of His lesson showing the distorted priorities of the people who were more concerned with the material loss of money than in the miracle of Jesus delivering the two men from a legion of demons. The people showed that they valued material possessions more than the salvation of human lives.

We also noticed in Mark's version, that the formerly possessed man asked to join Jesus with His Disciples but Jesus did not let him. Jesus told the man to go into the city and tell his own people (Gentiles) what the Lord has done. Many Gentiles in the Greek major city of Decapolis become believers because of this.

This tells us that we each have our own God given purpose and our own path to follow in our walk with Jesus. It was more important for this Gentile man to speak to his own people about Jesus than for him to join Jesus with the Disciples.

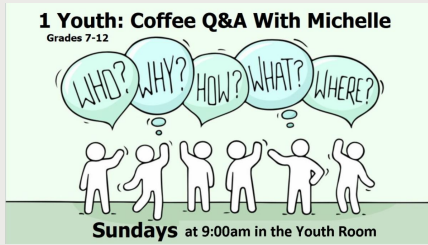
We said we each have our own "sphere of influence" of those who will listen to us about Jesus. Your friends in Jr High and High school are more likely to listen to you about **what the Lord has done for you** than some old guy in a Church telling them stories from the Bible.

We also noted that while Matthew mentions that there were two possessed men, Mark and Luke only mention one man. We said that only one of the two men was speaking to Jesus. Mark and Luke focused on this man.

We said that Jesus clearly went across the sea to this specific place, to save these specific men, for His specific purpose and within it all were valuable lessons to be learned.

We talked about how easy it is to fall into the same trap of the people in Gadarenes. It's easy to lose sight of what God wants for us and for us to remove Jesus from certain parts of our lives or from certain decisions that we make and to choose to go with our own feelings or with other worldly suggestions rather than with His will for us. It's easy for us to value material possessions over what God's will is for us. We said this is always something to be aware of to help make sure we're listening to the Holy Spirit guiding us in God's will.

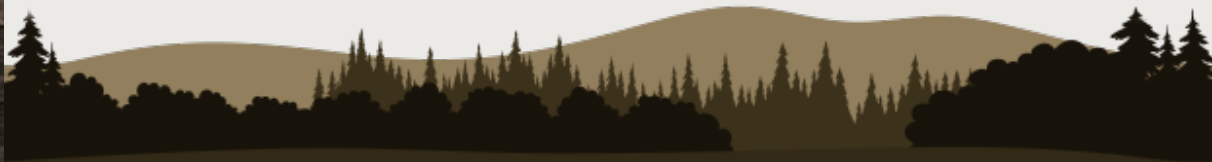
We said when you read these types of stories, think about what God's purpose was for having that story included & about what lesson you should learn from it.



Pre-Service Coffee Q&A

Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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