

## Matthew 8:28-34 The Lord's Power Over Demon Spirits

Introduction: Jesus had miraculously calmed the storm. In this text he performed a miracle even more impressive. He demonstrated His power over demons, which were even more powerful than the storm. Let us now join Jesus and His disciples as they leave the boat and go ashore.

### I. The place where they landed. (Where we join them.)

- A. Matthew calls it “the country of the Gergesenes.) Verse 28. (At least that is the way the gospel now reads.)
  - 1. Both Mark and Luke say that it is the country of the Gadarenes. (Mark 5 and Luke 8)
  - 2. Some speculate that the Gospel of Matthew also originally read “Gadarenes” but that some copiest erred and wrote it wrong. (I may ask about that in the millennium.)
- B. As we leave the shore there is a steep climb.
  - 1. At the top we can see the wall of a bluff at the foot of some hills.
  - 2. Holes (man made caves) are dug into the bluff.
  - 3. These caves serve as a cemetery for the nearby city.

### II. The two demoniacs.

- A. As we pass near the caves two men run out toward us.
- B. Verse 28 says that they were possessed with devils.(demons) (Demons lived inside their bodies along with their own spirits.)
  - 1. Mark and Luke tell us only of one of the two men.
  - 2. They also tell us that the demons were Legion. (Between three and six thousand.)
  - 3. They tell us that the men were naked.
- C. Matthew says they were exceeding fierce and that they attacked all who came near to them.
  - 1. Mark says that one had been captured and chained but that he broke the chains and got away.
  - 2. He also tells that he had cut his body all over with sharp rocks. (We can see the scars.)
  - 3. We drop behind Jesus so that He is between us and the men.
- D. These two men know Jesus and talk to Him. Verse 29. (Yell)
  - 1. Actually it is the demons who know Jesus.
  - 2. They do not attack, but yell out at Jesus. (Greek - repeatedly)
  - 3. They ask “What do you want with us?” (“What are you going to do to us?”)
  - 4. They ask “Have you come to torment us before the time?” (They knew that one day Jesus would put down all satanic forces. II Peter 2:4; Jude 6).
  - 5. They assumed that Jesus would cast them out of the two men and requested permission to enter a nearby herd of swine. Verses 30-31.

### III. The demons and the herd of swine.

- A. There was a herd of about two thousand swine. (Mark)
  - 1. What were hogs doing in this territory? (The Law of Moses forbids Jews to eat, handle, or sell hogs.)
  - 2. This was a mixed-race territory. (Jew - Gentile)
  - 3. Probably the Jews owned the hogs and the Gentiles tended to them.
- B. When the demons entered the swine, they all ran down the hill into the sea. Verse 32.
  - 1. Someone has said, “Even hogs know better than to have anything to do with Satan's crowd.”
  - 2. Actually the hogs panicked and ran not knowing it was to their doom.
    - 1. This illustrates the destructive work of all satanic forces. It always goes downhill.

#### IV. Jesus and the people of the town.

- A. When the hogs panicked and ran, those who fed them did also. Verse 33.
  - 1. They did not run into the sea, but ran into the city and told the owners.
  - 2. The news spread quickly and the people came out in mass to meet with Jesus.
- B. The people asked Jesus to get out of their country. Verse 34. (Surprise!)
- C. They should have been thrilled that Jesus was come their way.
  - 1. They knew about the two demoniacs being healed.
  - 2. They could now bring all of their sick to Jesus and have them all healed.
  - 3. More important they could be saved from the danger of hell and go to heaven.
- D. But they were more interested in their hogs and their money than in Jesus or their sick, or heaven or hell.
  - 1. Already two thousand of their hogs were gone.
  - 2. They feared that He would get rid of all the hogs in the area. (Because contrary to Law of Moses.)
  - 3. But when it came to a choice between their hogs and money and Jesus they chose hogs and money.
- E. We see this choice repeated all too often.
  - 1. Cities choose their breweries, liquor stores, honky-tonks, race tracks, etc.
  - 2. Men choose the extra job rather than worship.
  - 3. Some choose the liquor bottle, the dope, the prostitute house, etc.
- F. But I sound this warning: When those people asked Jesus to leave, He did. Matthew 9:1.
  - 1. He went right down the hill, got right back on the ship and went right back to Capernaum.
  - 2. Jesus will give men the opportunity to be saved, but if they want to be left alone, He will leave them alone.
  - 3. But all who want to be saved, and are willing to trust Him for salvation, He will save.

#### Conclusion:

- 1. I am asking you who want to be saved to trust Jesus right now.
- 2. I am asking you who are saved to give your life to serve Jesus.
- 3. I am asking you who are saved and in need of a church home to come and join this church.
- 4. I am asking you who are lost and in need of further explanation to come now.
- 5. I am asking you who are saved who need scriptural baptism to come.

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