


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

*The Healing of a Demon-possessed Man*

<sup>1</sup> They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes [some manuscripts Gadarenes; other manuscripts Gergesenes].

Q1. Where are the Gerasenes [Gergesa]?

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Q2. Did Jews inhabit the Gerasenes region?

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Q3. Did the people of the Gerasenes region worship the One True God?

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SOURCE: [https://www.casualenglishbible.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Mark-5-1-Kursi-copyright-Stephen-M-Miller20180421\\_1000px.jpg](https://www.casualenglishbible.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Mark-5-1-Kursi-copyright-Stephen-M-Miller20180421_1000px.jpg)

**Continued**

 This account of the demon-possessed man (men) is also told in Matthew 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-39.

<sup>2</sup> When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil [unclean] spirit came from the tombs to meet him.

Q4. Why do you think an evil spirit would even want to meet Jesus?

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

Q5. From this example, do evil spirits (i.e., Satan) have influence over this world?

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Q6. Can evil spirits actually cause physical things to happen?

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Q7. Can a sane person in the 21st century believe that a person can be influenced to do certain things by evil spirits?

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Q8. What is the best defense against evil?


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**Ephesians 6:10-18** [*The Armor of God*] Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

**Continued**

**Day 2**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.

Q9. If you fall on your knees before some person, what does that mean? What does it demonstrate?

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Q10. The man was driven by an evil spirit, so why did he fall on his knees before the Lord Jesus?

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Q11. Did the evil spirit want to worship Jesus?

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<sup>7</sup> He 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!" <sup>8</sup> For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

Q12. The evil spirit seemed to know who Jesus was. How did the evil spirit address Jesus?

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Q13. If Jesus was nothing more than a very "good" man, do you think that the evil spirit would still have come from the tombs to meet Jesus (or fallen down on his knees before Jesus, or addressed Jesus as "Son of the Most High God")?

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Q14. What did the evil spirit want Jesus to swear?

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Q15. In Mark 1:25 & 26 Jesus commanded that the evil spirit leave the man and the evil spirit "grumbled" and left. How did this evil spirit act, when Jesus commanded it to leave the man?

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**Continued**

**Day 3**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"


<sup>10</sup> "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

**Luke 8:31-32** [The Gospel of Luke also retells the story of the "demon-possessed man (or men)"; however, Luke adds some detail, particularly verse 31<sup>b</sup>.] "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. <sup>32</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission.

Q16. What is a "legion"?

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 Note: Legion: (1) the principal unit of the Roman army comprising 3000-to-6000-foot soldiers with cavalry. (3) a very large number (Merriam-Webster).

Q17. Why didn't "Legion" want to go "out of the area"?

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Q18. Did the evil spirit acknowledge Jesus' power? His deity?

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Q19. While we can only speculate, who do you think the spokesman was of the legion of demons ("he begged Jesus")?

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<sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. <sup>12</sup> The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them."

Q20. "Legion" was grasping "at straws" and seemed to willingly accept a life dwelling in pigs. After Jesus left, do you think the evil spirits would have been willing to remain in the pigs or would they have begun a search for another "host"?

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Q21. What words did "Legion" use to ask Jesus for permission?

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Q22. How did the Jews regard pigs?

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Continued

**Leviticus 11:2-3, 7-8** <sup>2</sup> "Say to the Israelites: 'Of all the animals that live on land, these are the ones you may eat: <sup>3</sup> You may eat any animal that has a split hoof completely divided and that chews the cud. . . <sup>7</sup> And the pig, though it has a split hoof completely divided, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. <sup>8</sup> You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.


 Note: did you notice that the demons (1) could not refuse Jesus' command to leave the man and (2) they had to ask permission to enter the pigs.


<sup>13</sup> He 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.


Q23. Why did the pigs rush into the lake and, in essence, commit suicide?


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 NOTE: This is one of those Bible stories that has elements that are difficult for us to understand. Admittedly, the following paragraphs were written by a present-day human as commentary to the parallel story recorded in Matthew 8; that said, the writer seemed to have good insight.

 "And Jesus said "Go!" The ease of the command demonstrates the authority of Christ. He had just rebuked the wind and the waves, "Peace. Be still." Now he expels the legions of demons with one word, "Go!" It anticipates the Bible's revelation of the judgment of people, in which He simply will say, "Depart, I never knew you." Here is true authority — He commands illness to depart, storms to calm, and demons to leave. And Matthew wants the reader to see it in its simplicity and clarity.

 "The contrast in the story is wonderful. Here are these powerful evil spirits. But they are in a panic, afraid of Christ, worried their days are coming to an end, knowing that a judgment is appointed for them. They may exert power over these two poor wretches, but against Christ they have no power at all, and they are desperate.

 "Now, when the demons go into the pigs, those poor animals cannot bear up under their presence, and they run headlong down into the lake and drown. Mark tells us that there were about 2,000 animals. What the humans tolerated and lived with, these unclean animals could not. The sudden shock to their systems of the evil spirits drove them into the sea.

 "We said in an earlier lesson that the sea was to the ancient world a symbol of evil, of the primordial chaos. It was fitting, then, that the demons were rushed down into the sea where the pigs died. The demons themselves would not drown, but were driven out by Jesus and knew that He was controlling them and their destiny. It is possible that when they rushed into the lake they rushed further into the abyss (see the other accounts) and were imprisoned. But the text does not say. The story is concerned with the victory over demons and the rescue of these men."

[\[https://bible.org/seriespage/11-demons-and-pigs-matthew-828-34\]](https://bible.org/seriespage/11-demons-and-pigs-matthew-828-34)

<sup>14</sup> Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.

Q24. Why did the herders run off into the town to report what had happened?

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Q25. Did the herd of pigs represent any wealth? Who was affected by the loss of a large herd?

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**Continued**

Q26. If the pigs represent material wealth, how does Jesus regard wealth compared to the soul of one person?

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**Day 4**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>15</sup> When 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. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man -- and told about the pigs as well.

Q27. Why were the people afraid, when they saw the former "possessed" man dressed and in his right mind?

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Q28. Would it have mattered to the people if no animals had been destroyed?

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<sup>17</sup> Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

Q29. Why would the people want such a miracle-maker to leave?

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<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. <sup>19</sup> Jesus 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."

Q30. In this place Jesus didn't ask the man to go into the synagogue and tell the priest. Why?

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Q31. Jesus seemed to want the "advertising". Why?

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**Continued**

<sup>20</sup> So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis [the Ten Cities] how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Q32. We have read about Jesus' miracles. Jesus' fame seemed to precede Him, wherever He traveled. Why were the people amazed?


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Q33. What amazes you the most about this event?

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 Note: Jesus is THE Son of God.

**Day 5**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

***A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman***

<sup>21</sup> When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. <sup>22</sup> Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." <sup>24</sup> So Jesus went with him.

Q34. Was it significant that a synagogue ruler came before Jesus?

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Q35. What did Jairus jeopardize by coming before Jesus?

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<sup>25</sup> A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.

Q36. Have you ever been in a large crowd, with people pressing close to you? How did you feel?

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Q37. Do you think that if someone touched you, you would have felt the touch?

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**Continued**

Q38. Under Jewish rules, was there any stigma associated with the woman's condition?

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**Leviticus 15:25-27** When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge, just as in the days of her period. <sup>26</sup> Any bed she lies on while her discharge continues will be unclean, as is her bed during her monthly period, and anything she sits on will be unclean, as during her period. <sup>27</sup> Whoever touches them will be unclean; he must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean till evening.

<sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."

Q39. How would you describe the woman's faith?

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Q40. Could there have been consequences to her from touching a religious man?

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<sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. <sup>30</sup> At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

Q41. Why do you think Jesus cared who touched Him?

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<sup>31</sup> "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' " <sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

Q42. What do you think the woman was feeling?

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<sup>34</sup> He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Q43. After hearing the wonderful, compassionate voice of our Savior, what do you think the woman felt?


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**Continued**

**Day 6**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>35</sup> While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" <sup>36</sup> Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe."


Q44. What do you think Jairus was feeling?

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Q45. Do you think that Jesus' reassuring voice gave Jairus confidence?

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<sup>37</sup> He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup> When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.

 Note: In Jewish times there was actually a professional service – paid mourners – whose job was to wail loudly and shed tears over the deceased.

<sup>39</sup> He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." <sup>40</sup> But they laughed at him.

Q46. What does "asleep" mean? Was the child dead? Or not?

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Q47. Why did the people laugh at the Lord?

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Q48. Was death a common event? If yes, were people experienced at determining death?

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**Continued**

<sup>41</sup> After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" ). <sup>42</sup> Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

Q49. What do you think were the emotions of Jairus and his wife?

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Q50. Does this miracle demonstrate Jesus' power over death?

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<sup>43</sup> He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Q51. Why did Jesus ask them to keep this miracle quiet?

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Q52. Do you think that Jairus was willing to comply?

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