

## Matthew 8:28-34 **2,000 Swine / Demons**

<sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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?" <sup>30</sup> Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. <sup>31</sup> So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✚ After the Storm was stilled they reached the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. [[Matthew 8:23-28](#), [Mark 5:1-2](#), [Luke 8:26-39](#)]
- ✚ At the top of the hill they met demon possessed men. [[Matthew 8:28](#), [Mark 5:1-17](#), [Luke 8:26-37](#)]
- ✚ The demons were able to give the men supernatural power and ferocity, so much so, that people could not pass that way.
  - ✧ It is interesting how the demonic forces cause people to focus on the dead, so the men lived among the tombs.
  - ✧ Today the same powers draw the young people, as well as adults, to have a fixation on horror images, costumes, toys, books, cartoons, movies, and video games etc.
- ✚ The demons knew Jesus, and that He is indeed the Son of God. [[Matthew 8:29](#), [Mark 5:6-7](#), [Luke 8:28](#)]
  - ✧ They knew that demons have nothing to do with Jesus.
  - ✧ They knew that Jesus is not on their side, but that they must obey him.
  - ✧ They know that there is a set time when He will send them to their place of torment.
  - ✧ They knew that Jesus is the One Who has the say over their own destiny.
- ✚ Jesus is the head of all principalities and powers in Heaven and on earth. [[Colossians 2:8-16](#), [Ephesians 1:15-23](#)]

Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him. [[1 Peter 3:21-22](#)]

- ✚ The primary residents of the country of the Gergesenes were Gentiles.
  - ✧ They were from among the peoples who were brought in to the land of Israel from other countries, after the northern kingdom of Israel had been carried captive by the Assyrians. [[2 Kings 17:5-41](#)]
  - ✧ The Gergesenes were living in a part of the land that Moses had given to the tribe of Manasseh after the defeat of Og, king of Bashan. [[Numbers 32:39-42](#), [Deuteronomy 3:13](#)]
- ✚ Being a land with heavy Gentile population, the raising of swine was a common business, even though swine were forbidden for the Children of Israel to eat.
  - ✧ For that reason it is not surprising to find a large herd of swine at that location.
- ✚ Being unclean and forbidden for the Children of Israel to eat, and being in the land God had given Israel as an inheritance, Jesus found no problem in allowing the demons to enter the swine.

- ✧ The demons who had inhabited the two men, have sufficient force to drive 2,000 swine out of their minds and cause them to drown themselves in the Sea of Galilee. [[Matthew 8:30-32](#), [Mark 5:13](#), [Luke 8:32-33](#)]
- ✧ When the people of the city heard about it, they came en-masse, and asked Jesus to leave their region. [[Matthew 8:33-34](#), [Mark 5:14-17](#), [Luke 8:34-37](#)]
  - ✧ Their income from the swine, was far more important to them, than the deliverance of the two men from demon possession.
  - ✧ Jesus valued the two men far above the value of the swine.
- ✧ Today people of the world value animals far above people.
  - ✧ Abort the infant, but save the whale, eagle, spotted owl, grizzly bear, wolf, dog, cat, or any other animal that catches the attention of animal activists and news media.
- ✧ Jesus must be deeply grieved at our value system.