

MKS

PIGS OR PEOPLE?  
SWINE OR SOULS?

Intro. I wonder what would happen if X should appear. If X would only show Himself. Remember Lk 16, Rev 16. And this miracle. OR Day of no discernment. Worldly standards in ch. Loss of perspective. Here's a miracle to bring these things back into sharp focus.

I. Focus on Satan.

Power not always as openly seen as here. Disc had sailed over Gal. Storm. Quieting. Gadarenes. Saw 2 men (Matt). One spokesman--maybe other dumb as demmons often did).

- A. Power to cause men to destroy selves physically, 27.2&5.  
E. Power to make men useless to society, 27 out of city.3.  
C. Power to unbalance mind, 4. 29  
6826 in legion. Eph 6:12; 2 Cor 4:4; 1 Tim 4:2.  
Civilization is only a veneer. People are in Satan's power and going to his place. Not primarily moved by physical poverty but by spiritual need.

II. Focus on Savior.

- A. Power over Demons. 5:6-13. 1 Jn 4:4.  
B. Power over Men.  
1. To change mind, 15.  
2. To change morals, 15.  
3. To change activities, 15. Lk 8:35 sitting at X's feet. Remember gospel is what changes men. Not philical convincing. Not cultural conversion. Not economic improvement. But X changes, Rom 1:16. Reasoned out of Script.

III. Focus on Society.

- A. Consternation, 8:34. Prob ran to tell owners so wouldn't lose jobs. Wanted witnesses.  
B. Curiosity, 35. Afraid bec couldn't understand. But interest in man was only passing. Then thot of selves.  
C. Choice, 37. Preferred self-interests to Savior.  
Pigs to people. Swine to souls.  
Money to men. 2000 pigs (5:13)

#### IV. Focus on Self.

Usually choices not so clearly and simply stated or presented to us. But nevertheless present and real.

- A. Prefer your ambitions to X's. For kids.
- B. Prefer your activity or entertainment to prayer.
- C. Prefer ease of possessions to giving. Look at income tax.
- D. Prefer staying to going.

*motive for interest in people. 18  
1. Then to Godliness or generosity*

Concl. Look at Satan's world. Savior's power.  
Society's interests and own self's choices.

Rabbi, begone!

Thy powers bring loss to us and out<sup>ly</sup>;

Our ways are not as Thine--

Thou lovest men--we, swing!

O get Thee gone, O Holy One,

And take this fool of Thine!

His soul? What care we for his soul?

Since we have lost our swine!

The Christ went sadly,

He had wrought for them a sign

Of love and tenderness divine--

They wanted swine!

Christ stands without your door and gently knocks,

But if your gold or swine the entrance blocks

He forces no man's hold, He will depart,

And leave you to the treasures of your heart.

John Oxenham