

2 demoniacs of Gadarenes

IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Introduction. Diff readings, Gadarenes, Gerasenes, Gergesenes. Present day Gersa. E bank of Galilee in Perea in territory of Philip the Tetrarch. Theme is reactions in presence of X. Just after calming of storm and they arrived at destination safely. Always arrive when Jesus in the boat. Key to passage (Lk's acct) is in the besought 's that appear (vs. 28,31,32, 37, 38).

I. Demons flee, 26-33.

A. The Destruction which demons do, 27,29. ^{Deployment}
 Make a man lose his sense of values (no clothes), separate him from society (in tombs--carved out of rocks in which these people lived like beasts). Mt speaks of 2 men and there were doubtless 2 but one the spokesman. Mk and Lk deal with one but don't deny that there might have been 2. Destroy a man's physical powers, 29. Even iron failed to keep him quiet. Chains and ropes used. Man was useless bec demons carried him away with them into wilderness. Mk 5:5 cut self and cried. ^{Mt - source of darkness to humanity} mental and physical capacities under complete control of Satan. Hard to imagine a more pitiable state. Devil still urges men to give selves to self-destroying habits. Possession of body rare today but not of soul. Battle goes on today, Eph 6.

B. The Destination of demons, 28,30,31, ^{11:7, 17:8, 20:3}
 Abyss, 30= Rev 9:1, Place of torment. Demons know their punishment is sure. Didn't want to be sent there prematurely. Jude 6.

C. The Declaration of the demons, 28, 31. ^{Declar}
 Jesus is Son of God most high. Some think this means man was a Gentile bec Most High used by Gentiles in OT. Numb 24:16; Gen. 14:20,22; Micah 6:6; Isa 14:14; Dan 3:26; 4:24,32; 5:18, 21; Acts 16:17. But the designation is also Jewish as seen in Lk 1:32, 35, 76; 6:35. After all it was the demon not the man who actually spoke. Also confessed that Jesus all-powerful bec 3x they besought Him. 1 Jn 4:4.

D. The Desire of demons, 30,32.
 To be left alone by X and not to be judged yet. Sure the demons didn't drown, and weren't yet sent to abyss. Where they went we don't know but probably continued their work. And their work was to possess men and keep them from X. How did this man come to X. Involuntarily thru a direct volition and drawing of the Saviour. Proved that they possessed this man by pronouns. "The simple fact as regards these pronouns is that they are written without any subtlety at all. Jesus turned to the man with his question, the man's mouth opened, and he answered. But there is no illusion anywhere--it is never the man that speaks but one of the demons. Roman legion had 6826 men in it. Mary Mag had 7 demons (Lk 8:2) and man who had 7 worse (Mt 12:43) but never so many.

II. World fears, 34-37.

All centers around the herd of swine.

A. The Reason for destroying the swine. Huxley said "The wanton destruction of other people's property is a misdemeanour of evil example." Answers.

(1) Story is a myth. (2) Healing historical, swine later addition. (3) demoniacs frightened swine and people imagined demons went into them. (4) Drowning accident and 2 reports mixed up. (5) Destruction is part of the mystery of evil like earthquakes, etc. (6) Jesus had right to do as He wished as Creator. (7) Nec to convince men of complete cure, and destruction of herd insignificant in relation to healing men. (8) Keepers were Jews and X simply enforcing Jewish law. No reason why Jews shouldn't be in this part of Galilee. Mk says 2000 which shows it was a big business. No complaint on part of owners which indicates they knew they were in wrong. So X judging and sending unclean spirits into unclean hogs.

B. The Report of the destruction, 34.

Those who fed swine ran to tell owners so wouldn't be blamed. X had hit civilized man's most sensitive spot--pocketbook. Didn't go to tell of cure of men but of loss of swine. Do souls of men or success of self mean more to you?

C. The Reaction to the report, 37.

Not hostile. Shows they knew they were in wrong. Feared in the presence of great Holiness. Unwilling to receive X for fear of further losses.

D. The Result, 37. X departed. He does not force self on us. Apply to carnal Xn. So easy to be like men of the world. Lord may let us go on and have these things but we'll miss the blessed fellowship of His presence. And we won't know His power.

III. Redeemed follows, 35, 38-39.

A. The demoniac's condition *if the redeemed*

Clothed instead of naked, right mind instead of raging, seated instead of wandering. When X redeems it affects our morals, minds, activities. Real conversion bec man was sitting at feet of Jesus--~~a~~ a disciple already.

B. The man's commission.

Can't sit and enjoy sal all the time. Go to own house first. Prob been separated for long time and now to return. Then he published it in Decapolis. If all our friends and families were saved, how many would be added to church. Content--show what God had done. Tell what God had done (Mk). In praising Jesus man felt he was praising God.

Concl. How do you react in presence of X in whose presence we live 24 hrs a day. Only sin will bring fear. Perfect love casts it out and commissions us.

What Satan did
what society did
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Swine or Souls?
Pig or People?

What God
How many men
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