



# JESUS, PLEASE LEAVE

a church in the World

## ABSTRACT

Have you ever tried to help someone and they didn't want your help? ...

March 23, 2025

# Contents

|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>PASSAGE</b> .....                 | <b>2</b> |
| <b>NOTES</b> .....                   | <b>2</b> |
| <b>SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY</b> .....    | <b>2</b> |
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....            | <b>2</b> |
| <b>BODY</b> .....                    | <b>3</b> |
| MARK 5:13 – 17 .....                 | 3        |
| WHERE ARE THE HALLELUJAHS? .....     | 3        |
| FEAR OF THE LORD .....               | 4        |
| <i>Healthy Fear</i> .....            | 4        |
| <i>Unhealthy Fear</i> .....          | 5        |
| <b>TAKE AWAYS</b> .....              | <b>5</b> |
| THE POWER OF GOD CHANGES LIVES ..... | 5        |

## Passage

Mark 5:14 – 17, Matthew 8:32 – 34, Luke 8:32 – 37

## Notes

The translations are basically the same.

## Scripture of the Day

- <sup>7</sup> Will you speak falsely for God  
and speak deceitfully for him?*
- <sup>8</sup> Will you show partiality toward him?  
Will you plead the case for God?*
- <sup>9</sup> Will it be well with you when he searches you out?  
Or can you deceive him, as one deceives a man?*
- <sup>10</sup> He will surely rebuke you  
if in secret you show partiality.*
- <sup>11</sup> Will not his majesty terrify you,  
and the dread of him fall upon you? - - Job 13:7 - 11*

where we strive to coach everyone on what God means in His Word and the joy of living that out, no matter how difficult it may be.

## Introduction

Have you ever tried to help someone, and they didn't want your help?

It was in their best interest, but they didn't see it that way. And the more you tried to help, the more they wanted you to leave them alone.

Can you imagine this happening to Jesus?

Well, imagine no longer, as we will see people from the entire region coming out to our King begging Him to leave.

Let us Pray ...

## Body

### Mark 5:13 – 17

*<sup>13</sup> So he gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.*

*<sup>14</sup> The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup> They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs. <sup>17</sup> Then they began to beg him to leave their region.*

To give a little better context for today, I have replayed verse 13 again so you can see the impact in verse 14. After Jesus cast out the demons from the man and then the demons went and entered the pigs, do you see what happened?

The folks who were taking care of the pigs ran to tell everybody all over the place. Do you see that they didn't walk, but ran into town and the countryside. So they went to tell everybody. I mean everybody.

Now in verse 15 we see that everybody came to see what happened. Wouldn't you? As we talked about last week. This man was possessed by a legion of demons. A Roman legion is approximately 5,000 soldiers, so 2,000 demons definitely fit within that definition. No people could pass him if he stood in their way. He snapped and smashed iron with his bare hands. So what the pig herders were describing to them is something which no one has ever seen before and probably had never heard of before.

So, they see the man, who is now in his right mind, cleaned up and clothed.

### Where are the Hallelujahs?

This is a miracle. So we read that people were celebrating and shouting Hallelujahs?! --- No, that was not the case. Seems very strange that people wouldn't be excited that this man who was in the most extreme torment was now totally healed. But instead of being thrilled, they were scared?!? Why?

Let's talk a little about this area where Jesus and His disciples had landed. Again, we talk often about making sure you understand the context of what we are reading. So here it is important to know who were the people of the Gerasenes.

*The region of the Gerasenes is often associated with the Decapolis, a group of ten cities on the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire in Judea and Syria. The Decapolis was known for its Hellenistic (Greek) culture and significant Gentile population, which is reflected in the presence of a large herd of pigs in the Gospel narratives—a detail indicating a non-Jewish setting, as pigs were considered unclean animals in Jewish law.*

## Fear of the Lord

So first we see these people were not Jews, so their understanding of who the God of the Hebrew Scriptures would probably be limited. But even so in the past we saw the Jews were frightened when God is in their midst. Remember on the mountain with Moses:

### Exodus 20:18 – 21

*<sup>18</sup>All the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the ram's horn, and the mountain surrounded by smoke. When the people saw it they trembled and stood at a distance. <sup>19</sup>"You speak to us, and we will listen," they said to Moses, "but don't let God speak to us, or we will die."*

*<sup>20</sup>Moses responded to the people, "Don't be afraid, for God has come to test you, so that you will fear him and will not<sup>[c]</sup> sin." <sup>21</sup>And the people remained standing at a distance as Moses approached the total darkness where God was.*

The people knew how the demoniac had been, and now seeing him as a normal, right-minded human scared them because this man, Jesus, had the power to overthrow 2,000 demons.

### Healthy Fear

To be fair, any person in their right mind should have a healthy fear of someone with that sort of power. And we see in Scripture that there is a healthy fear of the Lord:

### Psalms 11:10

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!*

### Matthew 10:28

*And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

The fear being discussed in Psalms and Matthew, and also in Proverbs and other places, is a healthy fear, not an unhealthy one. It is a reverential fear, a reverential awe of the God of the universe. It is an acknowledgment and knowing of his power, of his tremendous and boundless power, and an acknowledgment of how far away we are from him in terms of the power we have.

Every analogy we have, where we try to equate it to God, is always flawed. However, I'll give you the best one that I know of.

If you had a Dad who you knew loved, cared, and wanted the best for you. You had a Dad who cared more about teaching you what was right and wrong in life, as opposed to being your buddy; then you also had a dad whom you had a healthy fear of. You knew he loved you, but there were also boundaries you were not supposed to cross, and if you did, there were

consequences that you would not want to be implemented, and you know your Dad had the power to implement them no matter how much you might have protested or would have tried to stop him.

### *Unhealthy Fear*

Now, the people of Gerasenes had an unhealthy fear. So if we read verse 16 carefully it seems as though the herdsmen who had witnessed the event hadn't given all the details to the townsfolk when they told them to come see what happened. Let's look at v. 16 again:

#### **Mark 5:16**

*16 Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs.*

So after hearing the details the townspeople say nothing to Jesus about what a remarkable miracle He has done. They don't thank Him for curing the man. Instead, they ask Jesus to leave. No, they don't just ask, but they beg Jesus to leave.

Why?

## **Take Aways**

### **The Power of God Changes Lives**

We must always remember that the Power of God shall change lives. Not maybe, but definitely, and most people do not want change. The people of Gerasenes would prefer to have 2,000 demons in their region rather than the Omnipotent Master of the Universe.

They have gotten used to the demoniac. He pretty much stayed in the tombs, and as long as they didn't go near there, they were able to conduct their lives as they would like. When God enters your life, your life is going to change and it will always change in ways that will stretch you and are painful.

One example here that the townspeople didn't like and definitely the herdsmen didn't like and that was the fact that 2,000 pigs were now ruined. This is a lot of money. In doing the research for this message the approximate value of a denarius in today's dollars is around \$10 (rough estimate) and the cost of a regular pig would be around 15 denarii. After doing the math, we see that those 2,000 pigs were worth about \$300K. That is not a small amount.

Jesus is causing trouble with their money. He might do something else which will affect their livelihood. Someone with His power might make them do something else that will change their lives as well.

The people in Gerasenes didn't want that back then and many people today do not want that now. They are comfortable with their current lives. Yes, it is not perfect, but they know what to do

and how to be in control. If we let the one with all power stay around, we know that we are not in control, but He has the power of control whenever He chooses to use it. So the people of Gerasenes wanted to keep control, so they beg Jesus to leave.

Is that you?

Are you not willing to give up control?

Are you also saying to Jesus, Please leave? ...