

**Gospel of Mathew “Calming the Soul”**  
**Matthew 8:28-34**  
**January 15, 2023**

Matthew 8:28-34

28 And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. 29 And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?” 30 Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. 31 And the demons begged him, saying, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.” 32 And he said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. 33 The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

What the scene represents.

What is revealed to us about Jesus.

The responses.

A dark and powerful setting.

Mark 5:9

9 And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.”

The world is not a neutral place.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

1 John 3:8

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

What the man represents.

Mark 5:3-5

3 He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, 4 for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

Powerful and in prison.

Romans 6:16-18

16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Romans 6:20-22

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

What is revealed?

Matthew 8:29

29 And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

Jesus' appearance anticipates the Last Judgement.

Mark 5:11-19

11 Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, 12 and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." 13 So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

14 The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed[c] man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. 16 And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. 17 And they began to beg Jesus[d] to depart from their region. 18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. 19 And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

The reactions.

The man has come to himself.

The demons, herdsmen, and the healed man all beg Jesus.

The passage is a promise that no from of evil will endure forever.

Jesus is the only one that can set us free.

### **Grow Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- There is a lot of mystery regarding the spiritual and demonic. What have you come to believe about demons? Discuss how this story is dramatic with demons and yet they aren't central to the point Matthew is making.
- In the account of Jesus healing the demon possessed, what do we learn about Jesus? His power? His love?
- How is the miracle an illustration of salvation?
- What is realized by the townspeople's response to Jesus' miracle? How might the missionary efforts of the Church be forewarned by the townspeople?
- How do you understand the direction Jesus gives to the healed man to stay behind and tell his friends? What is the message that we tell *our* friends?
- What kind of chaos are you experiencing in your life right now? Close your group time thanking God for all the chaos that will ultimately end because of Jesus.