

Swine or Savior?

(Mark 5:1-20)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of Let's Make a Deal – picking a curtain (Monte Hall, Wayne Brady)
 2. The thing about this account in the life of Jesus that I find most amazing is not the demonstration of his power, but the reaction of the people.
 3. Let's see if we can learn something from the people in the story.

I. The Despair of the Demon-Possessed Man

- A. What were demons?
 1. I wish I could emphatically answer that question, but I can't.
 2. Therefore, any dogmatic speculation is unprofitable (2 Cor. 4:6).
- B. What I can tell you is that Jesus demonstrated his absolute power over them.
- C. Look at what these demons took from this man.
 1. He was abandoned (Mark 5:4).
 2. He lost his sense of shame (Luke 8:27).
 3. He harmed himself (Mark 5:5).

II. The Heartlessness of the Gadarenes

- A. They were more concerned about the loss of the pigs than the reclaiming of this man!
- B. They pleaded with Jesus to leave their region (Mark 5:18).
- C. There were no expressions of gratitude, no thanks, no praising of God – just pleading with him to leave!

III. The Gratitude of the Delivered Man

- A. He begged Jesus to take him with him (Mark 5:18).
- B. Though denied permission, he was given another task to spread the news of his deliverance throughout all Decapolis, a larger region than just Gadara (Mark 5:19).

- Conclusion:
1. Can you find yourself in this account.
 2. Are you the person despairing because of Satan's grip on your life?
 3. Are you the person who find more important things in life than Jesus?
 4. Are you the person who has been delivered by Jesus and just can't stop telling others your good news?