

"JESUS CHRIST - A MAN APPROVED OF GOD (<u>Acts 2:22</u>)" Miracle #14 – "MAN WITH A LEGION OF DEVILS AT GADARENES"

Mark 5:1-4,5-8,9-12,13-16,17-19; Luke 8:26-29,30-33,34-37,38-39

Dear Reader, this miracle raises a series of points:

1. Firstly, devil possession is different from lunacy and palsy as stated ...

"... those which were possessed with **devils**, and those which were **lunatick**, and those that had the **palsy**; and he healed them."(<u>Matthew 4:24</u>)

Secondly, throughout scripture, evil spirits do take **possession** of men's bodies ... two examples are **Saul** (1 Samuel 16:14); and the **lying prophets** (<u>1 Kings 22:21-23</u>).

Thirdly, people out of curiosity, indeed invitation, through seeking out a wizard for example (<u>Leviticus 19:31</u>; <u>Leviticus 20:6-7</u>), become **friendly** and **familiar** with spirits, such that the devils become **familiar spirits**. Under Old Testament law, these people were put to death for this association.

Today, in the 'new' age of Spiritualism (there's nothing new ... meet the new boss ... same as the old boss), there is an alarming exponential return to this dreadful sin ... with horrendous consequences, as ungodly mediums communicate with the dead.

2. As strange as it sounds, when Christ was on earth, that is before the cross, and preaching the kingdom of heaven, there was a special manifestation of devil possession, **which Christ allowed**, by giving the devils permission to inhabit, indeed, **transfer** from one creature into another ... and in this case, into pigs (<u>Mark 5:13</u>).

3. It is only after the cross, and under the dispensation of Paul the apostle's gospel (1 Corinthians 9:17; <u>Ephesians 3:2</u>; <u>Colossians 1:25</u>), that the kingdom of God **supercedes** the kingdom of heaven.

This is explained by the scripture "But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt **the kingdom of God is come upon you.**" (<u>Luke 11:20</u>). Note ... Christ does not say into another animal, but simply cast out, as into darkness.

Now although the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God are present in the Lord Jesus Christ, while Christ remains on earth, it is the former, the kingdom of heaven, that is in operation. After the cross and under Paul's kingdom of God dispensation, devils are cast into outer darkness and **never** into other animals as in this case.

4. Why would the devils seek lenience from Christ?

"And he (Christ) asked him, What is thy name? And he (the devil) answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. And he (Legion) **besought him** (Christ) **much that he** (Christ) **would not send them away out of the country.** (<u>Mark 5:9-10</u>).

As with the Gergesenes inhabitation of devils (<u>Matthew 8:28</u>), the devils' complaint was that Christ would torment them **before their time** as follows ... "... they (devils) cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us **before the time**?" (<u>Matthew 8:29</u>).

Devils are tormented if not allowed to inhabit a living creature.

The time was coming under the kingdom of God dispensation, when devils would **not** be allowed to simply move from one living creature to another. Before the cross this was allowed but not after, as Satan's works would be destroyed (<u>1 John 3:8</u>; <u>Hebrews 2:14</u>), although he would still able to go around **as** a roaring lion (<u>1 Peter 5:8</u>).

The devils in this man at Gadarenes, were fearful of Christ tormenting them by preventing them residing in a living creature, man or animal, and so pleaded their case for another fate. Christ acquiesces by sending them into a herd of pigs. Christ would not cast them into a man ... but into an **already unclean** animal ... a pig (Leviticus 11:7).

5. Once again, to the thinking Jew, as Christ had the authority to handle the Gadarenes man's devils, he would have to have an 'open mind' that just maybe, Christ created Lucifer and the angels (<u>Genesis 2:1</u>; <u>Luke 2:13</u>), and had cast them out of heaven also?

Furthermore, apart from using his own instant and all powerful authority, a legion of devils presented no problem, as Christ could have twelve legions of angels at his disposal (<u>Matthew 26:53</u>) ... and Christ never lied (<u>2 Corinthians 5:21</u>; <u>1 Peter 2:22</u>).

6. People get all upset over Christ's treatment of animals. Today in the state of New South Wales, Australia, **The Animal Justice Party (AJP)** (animals are people too you know) ... look like getting a seat in the government at the latest elections.

The AJP would send Christ to prison for **five years** and fined **\$10,000** for every pig killed ... Mmmm! Let me see if a herd is about **200 animals**, Christ would have to languish in prison for **1,000 years** and fork out **two million bucks**!

Killing a person receives a lighter sentence ... you can get out on parole in three years!

Now dressed up as concerned citizens championing animal welfare rights, the AJP are simply closet Hindus who believe animals have a **soul** ... **which they don't** ... and this is their platform for falsely believing that souls can migrate up and down the animal kingdom, from one animal to another ... a 'higher' animal like a cow into a 'lower' form of a lizard, and vice versa, according to their moral status and goodness at the time of death.

Anyhow, no wonder the herders were upset with Jesus (<u>Mark 5:17</u>) ... firstly, they would have been opposed to Jesus for start, as true Jews would never raise pigs ... being unclean (<u>Leviticus 11:7-8</u>) ... secondly, they would be bankrupt if Christ's practice of casting devils into swine were to be repeated (<u>1 Timothy 6:10</u>).

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