

19. The Possessed Man

Introduction: The previous story was about Jesus' baptism by John.

Jesus began to tell others about God's truth. He helped many people, and healed many sick people. Everyone came to hear the news from Jesus, and they were eager to find him and touch him. Some people chose to follow him. There were twelve men whom Jesus chose to be his disciples. (Mark 3:7–19; Luke 3:4–5)

One day, Jesus and his disciples went to a new place. Just as Jesus was getting off the boat, there was a man not wearing any clothes, running out from the graveyard, saying, "Jesus! God's son, what are you going to do to me? Please do not make me suffer!" (Mark 5:1–2, 7; Luke 8:27)

This man, who was wearing nothing, was possessed by a demon. All day and all night he was there in the graveyard running and shouting, and often hurting himself. Even when they tried to use chains to restrain him, he could still break loose. No one could subdue him. (Mark 5:3–5)

When Jesus came, he told the demon to come out of the man. (Mark 5:8)

The demon cried and begged Jesus, "Don't make us suffer!" (Luke 8:28)

Jesus asked the demon, "What is your name?" (Mark 5:9)

The demon answered, "Our name is Group." This was because there were many demons possessing this man. (Luke 8:30)

On the hill, there was a large group of pigs. The demon begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs. Therefore, Jesus let them go into the pigs. (Mark 5:11–13)

When the demons went into the pigs, the pigs ran off the edge of the cliff and fell down into a big river and they all drowned. There were about two thousand pigs. When those who were taking care of the pigs saw this, they went to the village to tell others. As a result, many people came to see what happened. (Mark 5:13–14)

They saw the man who used to be possessed by the demons wearing clothing, and he was in his right mind. (Mark 5:15)

When those who came to see saw this, they were very frightened. They asked Jesus to leave their place. (Mark 5:15–17)

So Jesus was getting ready to leave. While Jesus was getting onto the boat, the man who used to be possessed by the demons wanted to go with Jesus. (Mark 5:18)

Jesus told him, "You should go home. Go and tell your family and your friends what God has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you." (Mark 5:19)

The man then went back home to tell his family, and he also went to many villages, telling people what Jesus had done for him. Those who heard were very amazed. (Mark 5:20)