

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

# JESUS IS KING



## Jesus' Power over Demons

**Text:** Matthew 8:28-34

### 1. Jesus meets two demon-possessed men. - Matthew 8:28-29

The other gospel accounts mention only one of these men. This is probably because there was one that was far more severe in his state of demonic possession, having many demons.

**What have we to do with thee:** The demons tormenting these poor men wanted to be *left alone*. They didn't want Jesus to interfere with their horrible work.

Mind your own business! It's an old argument. Do not interfere! Let us alone, and go elsewhere!' Devils never like to be interfered with.

**What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God?** The demons knew who Jesus was even if the disciples didn't. We can contrast the two statements:

- *What manner of man is this?* (Matthew 8:27)
- **Jesus, You Son of God** (Matthew 8:29)

**Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?:** These demons also knew of both their immediate destiny (to be cast out) and their ultimate destiny (to suffer everlasting **torment**). They wanted the freedom to do as much damage as they could **before the time**, their destiny of torment.

## **2. Jesus casts the demons into a herd of swine. - Matthew 8:30-32**

Both Jews and Gentiles populated the region of Galilee, so this may have been a herd of pigs owned by Gentiles. But most commentators believe that since the pigs were unclean for Jews, they should not have been there, even if a Gentile man owned them.

**If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine:** The demons wanted to enter the **swine** because these evil spirits are bent on destruction and *hate to be idle*.

The devil is so determined to do evil, that he will rather play at a small game than stand out.

**And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters:** There is nothing really comparable to this in the Bible, the casting of demons from a human into animals. Yet Jesus had a good reason to allow this.

The fact that the demons immediately drove the swine to destruction helps explain *why* Jesus allowed the demons to enter the pigs – because He wanted everyone to know what the real intention of these demons was. They wanted to destroy the men just as they destroyed the pigs. Because men are made in the

image of God, they could not have their way as easily with the men, but their intention was just the same – to kill and destroy.

Another reason why the devils were sent into the pigs was to conclusively show that they had been cast out of the men.

### **3. Jesus is asked to Leave - Mathew 8:33-34**

Since Jesus knew human nature, He knew what to expect from this crowd coming from the city. Yet His disciples probably thought that these people would be pleased that Jesus had delivered these formerly **demon-possessed men**.

The work of Jesus had unified the **whole city**, and they had all come out to meet with and to talk to Jesus; but it was not in a good way.

**They besought him that he would depart out of their coasts:**  
We would think that the people in that place would be happy that these two demon-possessed men had been delivered.

Maybe they cared more about pigs than people. What ever it was, the power of Jesus did not make all men feel comfortable.

