

# When Pigs Fly

Mark 5:1-20

This is the second of four miracles that demonstrate Jesus' comprehensive authority. Jesus has power over nature (4:35-41), demons (5:1-20), disease (5:24-34), and death (5:21-23, 35-43).

Jesus restored a man's mind by casting out a demon.

1-2 – Jesus and his disciples went to the east side of the Sea of Galilee, a region inhabited primarily by Gentiles. After calming a violent storm on the sea, Jesus encountered a man with an equally violent storm inside him.

2-5 – The demoniac was strong and untamable, a danger to himself and a terror to others.

6-10 – The demon-possessed man knew exactly who Jesus was. He knelt before him. He asked Jesus not to punish him. He addressed him as the Son of the Most High God.

To the Jewish mind, "Legion" brought an image of great numbers, efficient organization, and relentless strength.

11-13 – The fate of the swine demonstrated the ultimate intentions of the demons for the man. They were focused solely on destruction.

14-17 – At the same time he demonstrated his authority over the demons, Jesus restored his image in the life of a profoundly disfigured man. The ex-demoniac was now rational, controlled, at peace, and in communion with God.

The man's healing perhaps terrified the townspeople more than his madness. They begged Jesus to leave.

18-20 – Rather than allow the ex-demoniac to accompany him back across the Sea of Galilee, Jesus encouraged him to return home and tell of his deliverance. The man obeyed and heralded the good news far and wide.

Jesus can deliver us from anything if we will come to him. The only thing that will stop him is if we act like the Gerasenes and send him away.