

Matthew 8:28-34

Jesus Heals Two Demon-Possessed Men



Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 8:28	Jesus arrives in the region of the Gadarenes/Gergesenes and is met by two demon-possessed men from the tombs. They are so violent no one could pass that way.	Demon-possessed (daimonizomai) — under demonic influence or control; Tombs (mnēmeion) — burial places, symbol of death and impurity; Violent (chalepos) — fierce, dangerous.	Evil isolates and enslaves. The men lived among tombs — symbolic of spiritual death.	Spiritual battles are real. Avoid places or habits that give darkness influence.
Matthew 8:29	The demons cry out, “What do you want with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”	Son of God (huios tou Theou) — divine Messiah; Appointed time (Kairos) — the set time for judgment.	Even demons recognize Jesus’ identity and authority over their destiny.	Remember Christ’s ultimate authority — every power of darkness must bow to Him.
Matthew 8:30	A large herd of pigs was feeding some distance away.	Pigs (choiros) — unclean animals in Jewish law (Leviticus 11:7).	Shows this was Gentile territory and hints at spiritual uncleanness.	Jesus’ mission extends beyond Jewish boundaries, offering freedom to all people.
Matthew 8:31	The demons begged Jesus to drive them into the pigs if He casts them out.	Begged (parakaleō) — to plead earnestly.	Demons cannot act without Jesus’ permission, proving His supreme power.	Trust that nothing can happen to you apart from God’s sovereign will.

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Jesus Heals Two Demon-Possessed Men (page 2)



Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 8:32	Jesus says, “Go!” The demons come out and go into the pigs, which rush down the steep bank into the lake and drown.	Go (hypagō) – a single authoritative command; Drown (apothnēskō) – to die, perish.	One word from Jesus brings total deliverance. Evil is ultimately self-destructive.	Jesus can break any bondage instantly. Believe in His power to set people free.
Matthew 8:33	Those tending the pigs run off, go into town, and report everything, including what happened to the demon-possessed men.	Report (apangeliō) – to proclaim or announce.	A dramatic witness of Jesus’ power spreads quickly.	Share testimonies of Christ’s deliverance – it draws others to His authority.
Matthew 8:34	The whole town comes to meet Jesus, but they plead with Him to leave their region.	Pleaded (parakaleō) – urge, beg; here used negatively.	The people preferred material loss avoidance over spiritual freedom.	Don’t let fear of change or loss keep you from welcoming Jesus fully.

Key Revelation

Jesus demonstrates absolute authority over the spiritual realm. Even hostile powers and natural forces (pigs rushing into the sea) obey His single word. Yet human hearts can still reject Him, valuing comfort over transformation.

Cross References

Matthew 8:28 – Two demon-possessed men meet Jesus

- **Parallel accounts:** Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26-27 – The Gerasene/Gadarene demoniac(s), describing the same encounter.
- **Isaiah 65:4** – People who sit among the graves and spend the night in secret places; a picture of impurity and death.
- **Ephesians 6:12** – Our struggle is against spiritual forces of evil.

Theme: Evil isolates and enslaves; Jesus confronts it directly.

Matthew 8:29 – Demons recognize Jesus and fear judgment

- **Mark 1:24** – “I know who you are – the Holy One of God!”
- **James 2:19** – Even demons believe and shudder.
- **Revelation 20:10** – The final appointed time when the devil is thrown into the lake of fire.

Theme: Spiritual powers know Christ’s identity and their ultimate defeat.

Matthew 8:30 – A large herd of pigs nearby

- **Leviticus 11:7** – Pigs are unclean under Mosaic law.
- **Acts 10:15** – God declares all foods clean (showing Jesus’ mission expanding beyond Jewish ceremonial boundaries).

Theme: Gentile territory and ritual uncleanness frame the miracle’s setting.

Matthew 8:31 – Demons beg for permission

- **Job: 1:12; 2:6** – Satan must seek God’s permission to act.
- **Mark 5:12; Luke 8:32** – Parallels of demons pleading to enter the pigs.

Theme: No demonic action occurs outside Christ’s sovereign authority.

Matthew 8:32 – Demons enter pigs; herd rushes into the lake

- **Exodus 15:4-5** – Pharaoh’s army drowned in the sea; a picture of evil meeting destruction.
- **Mark 5:13; Luke 8:33** – Parallel details of the pigs’ plunge.
- **Psalms 106:11** – “The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived.”

Theme: Evil ultimately destroys itself when confronted with God’s power.

Matthew 8:33 – The herdsmen report what happened

- **Mark 5:14; Luke 8:38** – Parallels of witnesses spreading the news
- **John 4:39** – Testimony leading many to believe

Theme: Testifying to Christ’s works spreads His fame and invites decision.

Matthew 8:34 – Townspeople beg Jesus to leave

- **Mark 5:17; Luke 8:37** – Parallels of the crowd pleading for Jesus to depart.
- **John 3:19** – People loved darkness rather than light.
- **Acts 16:19-40** – Philippian slave-owners react with fear and anger after Paul casts out a spirit.

Theme: Some reject Jesus when His presence threatens their comfort or economy.
