

Read Mark 5:11-20

11 There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. **12** “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.”

13 So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

14 The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened.

15 A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid.

16 Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs.

17 And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone. **18** As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him.

19 But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.”

20 So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

What was nearby when Jesus was talking with the demon possessed man (v. 11)? A herd of pigs. They were eating grass on the hillside.

What did the demons (Legion) beg Jesus to do (v. 12)? Let them go and live in the pigs instead of living in the demon possessed man.

What did Jesus do (v. 13)? He let them go and live in the pigs after they had left the demon possessed man. **What did the herd of pigs do?** They went crazy. They rushed down the bank, ran into the lake and drowned.

What did the pig farmers do next (v. 14)? They told everyone around them what had happened.

When the town people came out to see what had happened, how did they react (v. 15)? They were afraid.

Why do you think they were afraid? They didn't know about Jesus and who He was. How could someone order the demons to leave the man and go live in the pigs? Someone with that much power was scary. They didn't know if He might hurt them. Plus, they saw the demon possessed man and now he was normal.

Do you think you would be afraid of Jesus?

When the town people heard what had happened, what did they do (v. 17)? They asked Jesus to leave. Isn't that strange? Most people want Jesus to stay and heal the sick. The town people were probably scared and didn't know what to expect from Jesus next.

When Jesus was getting into the boat to leave, what did the demon-possessed man ask Him (v. 18)? He begged to go with Jesus.

What did Jesus tell him to do (v. 19)? Go tell your family how Jesus healed you and how kind He was to you.

What did the demon-possessed man do (v. 20)? He went to the city instead and told everyone else.

How did the people in the city react? They were amazed at the miracles Jesus did that the man told them about.