

# Miracles #1 ~ A Storm and a Madman

## Week 16 ~ Notes for June 19th

Mike Lewis

### Background

June 19	Subject	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
Mike <i>A storm and a madman</i>	Miracles (2):				
	1. Centurion's son healed				4:46-54
	2. Christ calms the storm	8:18-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
	3. The Gadarene demoniac(s)	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	

Please read the above passages and note any *significant* differences between those in the synoptic gospels.

#### 1. The Royal Official's Son

Having run out of time last week and missed the second of the "signs" recorded by John 4:46-54 we'll spend just a few minutes looking at its position in John's gospel. The "thrust" of the story and discussion will be covered later when we consider similar miracles in the synoptic gospels.

#### 2. The Storm on Galilee

Have you ever been on an EXTREMELY rough sea or an EXTREMELY turbulent flight? We'll take a *short* time for sharing just three experiences (as briefly as possible please). Apart from nausea etc. how safe or otherwise did you feel?

How do we relate the storm as reported in this story to Job 30, 37, Psalm 29, 107:23-32, 135:5-7, Jonah 1:4-16 etc.

#### 3. The demoniac(s) in Gadera / Gerasa

Read the story in Mark 5:1-20 several times in various translations.

##### i. The demoniac(s)

When (if ever) while out and about have you encountered anyone who was, or who appeared to be,

- demon possessed?
- having an epileptic fit?
- uncontrollably violent? (as in a street-flight or riot or other situation)?

What was your reaction? What did you do?

- in a physically and mentally depraved condition *similar to that described in Mark 5:3-5 and Luke 8:29*? If so, what was your reaction? What did you do?
- How did you react to reading the descriptions of the demoniac?

##### ii. The demons and the pigs

- What do you make of Mark 5:10, Luke 8:31 and then Matt 8:31, Mk 5:12 and Lk 8:32 with regard to the demons?
- Have you ever driven (slowly) or walked past a pig farm. How was this experience for you?
- Have you ever walked past or through a wood where pigs were feeding? What did you notice about the pigs?
- Why do think Jesus destroyed the herd of pigs in order to give the demons a "home"?

- e. The price of a pig sold for meat in the UK is approximately £120. A herd of 2000 pigs today would be worth around £240,000. How could Jesus justify destroying the livelihood of the Gadarene/Gerasene pig farmers who were most likely to be “Gentiles” supplying the local food chain?
  - iii. The end of the story
    - a. Why did Jesus forbid the healed man from going back in the boat with him and the disciples?
    - b. What was the result?
4. What have you learnt about Jesus from these two stories?