

this is why they say, "that Thou torment not;" meaning, do not lead us out of our dwelling place, which is this man. Furthermore, they thought that the Lord would not tolerate the excess of evil they had dared to commit, and here and now would hand them over to their final punishment. This is also why they pleaded with Him not to torment them. The Lord asked the man his name, not because He needed to find out what it was, but so that the others would learn of the multitude of demons dwelling within him. Since there appeared to be only one demon, the Lord showed how many enemies there were with which that pitiable man had to struggle.

**11-14. Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the demons besought Him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country.** The demons ask the Lord not to send them out of that region, but to let them depart into the herd of swine. And He allows this. For our life is like a school of wrestling, and so the Lord was not willing to let the demons depart from this life, but wanted them to remain to wrestle with us and make us more experienced in the struggle. He permitted them to enter into the swine so that we would learn that just as the demons did not spare the swine, likewise they would not have spared that man if divine power had not preserved him. For the demons are our enemies and would destroy us in an instant if God did not preserve us. Learn that neither do the demons have authority over swine, much less over men, if God did not permit it. Understand that the demons also enter into men who live like swine, rolling in the mire of pleasures, and the demons hurl them over the precipice of destruction and into the sea of this life, where they drown.

**14-20. And they went out to see what it was that was done. And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the demon, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the demon, and also concerning the swine.**

**And they began to beseech Him to depart out of their coasts. And when He was come into the boat, he that had been possessed with the demon besought Him that he might be with Him. Yet Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them what great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.** The inhabitants of that city, astonished at the miracle, went out to see Jesus. When they heard what had happened, they were greatly afraid. This is why they pleaded with Jesus "to depart out of their coasts." They were afraid that they might suffer even greater damage than this. For they had suffered the loss of the swine, and were grieved at that loss, and thus wanted the Lord to leave. But "he that had been possessed with the demon besought Him that he might be with Him." For he was afraid that the demons would find him alone and would again set upon him. But the Lord sends him away to his own house, first of all, to show the man that even though He Himself is not present, His power and protecting care will keep him safe; and secondly, so that the man would bring benefit to those who would see him. And behold, the man began to "proclaim... and all men did marvel." See also the absence of boasting on the Saviour's part. He did not say, "Tell what great things I have done for thee," but, "Tell what great things the Lord hath done for thee." So too must you, O reader, attribute to God, and not to yourself, whatever good thing you may have done.

**21-29. And when Jesus was passed over again by boat unto the other side, much people gathered unto Him: and He was nigh unto the sea. And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw Him, he fell at His feet, and besought Him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray Thee, come and lay Thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. And Jesus went with Him; and much people followed Him, and thronged Him. And a certain woman, who had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, when she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched His garment. For she said, If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain**