

Herd of Pigs

Matthew 8:28-34

Main Truth: Jesus has the power to deliver us from death

Matthew 8:22

Jesus challenged two followers what they are willing to do in His name.

Matthew 8:27

Calming the storm at sea demonstrated Jesus' power and authority that led his disciples to ask the question "What kind of man is this?"

Matthew 8:28

When Jesus and his disciples reached the opposite shore of the Sea of Galilee they were met by two violent demon possessed men coming out of the tombs.

In our own sinful circumstances, we can identify with these men, as we are dead in our sin with a tomb as our future home without salvation. Jesus personally meets these men and will give them deliverance from death. He is our Savior also.

Matthew 8:29

The disciples asked "What kind of man is this?" and the demon-possessed men asked "What do you want with us, Son of God?" The demons inside of the two men already knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

Matthew 8:30-31

The demons wanted to go from one unclean location (a tomb) and enter into pigs which were also considered unclean by the Jews.

Matthew 8:32

Jesus spoke the command "go" and the demons immediately left the two men and went into the pigs. The demons then drove the pigs to destruction and death.

Jesus may have intended for humanity to see what the real intention is of satan and his demons. Satan's goal is to keep us from God and to lead us to an eternal demise, to kill us eternally.

For Jesus to allow the demons to take over pigs was likely for us to see what their end goal is: total and eternal destruction.

When we are tempted, we need to remember what satan is up to and what that road leads to. In Christ, we are delivered from the hands of death, raised to new life. We are called out of our tombs of death to walk with Christ forever, only Jesus has the power to deliver us from death.

Matthew 8:33-34

Jesus had taken care of the towns problem regarding the two demon possessed men living in the tombs, acting violently and being a threat to everyone. Instead of being thankful the people of the city begged Jesus to leave. Instead of being amazed, they were frightened of the power they saw and wanted no part of it.

As we see the power of Christ, we recognize He has authority over nature and authority over the spirits. We need to recognize that He has authority over each of our lives as well. He has the power to save, the power to rescue, the power to heal and the power to deliver us for all time.

Whatever causes you to stumble in your spiritual life, Jesus can come through!
Whatever circumstances you are in, Jesus is bigger than them!
Whatever punishment you deserve eternally, Jesus paid for it in full!

It is not just because He is willing but because He can!

Main Truth: Jesus has the power to deliver us from death

Hebrews 9:11-12

We cannot enter the Holy of Holies because of our sin, but Jesus represents us by being our high priest before God the Father. Jesus goes on our behalf so we can be forgiven.

Application: Turn to Jesus this week with one thing you need deliverance from. It may be a sin issue, addiction, mental health or physical health issues that you are struggling with.

We are bought by the blood of Jesus, so put your faith in Him alone by asking Him to be your Lord and Savior.

1 Peter 1:18-21

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Small Group Discussion Questions

Herd of Pigs Matthew 8:28-34

1. Bacon! Bacon! Bacon! What is it about bacon? What is your favorite way to eat bacon?
2. Before you read the passage, have your group try to remember what they can about this weeks passage and retell the story in their own words.
3. How does the demons' recognition of Jesus as the "Son of God" and their fear of premature judgment demonstrate His total power over evil?
4. The demons knew *who* Jesus was but did not submit to Him. How does this distinguish mere intellectual belief from saving faith that requires heart surrender? Discuss Head Knowledge vs. Heart Submission
5. In light of the previous question, discuss the difference between Jesus as Savior and Jesus as Lord. What difference does this make in our relationship with Jesus?
6. Does Jesus as Savior and Jesus as Lord have different expectations for how we live? Explain.
7. Why did the demons ask to enter the herd of pigs? What does this reveal about their nature or intent to cause destruction?
8. How did the townspeople respond to Jesus and what had taken place? What does this say about people valuing property and profit over individual persons and restoration?
9. In what ways do modern cultures or individuals value material security or comfort over spiritual truth or the presence of Christ?
10. Identify one area where you prioritize "pigs" (possessions, position....) over people. What is one concrete step you can take this week to prioritize people for God's glory?
11. Share with your small group someone you know who has "head knowledge" of Jesus but have not surrendered their hearts to Him. Encourage one another to pray for those friends and family members that God would open their hearts to His calling and for opportunities to share with them what Jesus as Lord truly means.

Personal Study Guide

Jesus Our Deliverer

God alone is the source of our deliverance, a roll fully realized through Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. **John 3:16-18**

Psalms 18:2

Isaiah

Romans 7:25

Romans 11:26

Galatians 1:4

Hebrews 2:15

John 8:36

Romans 8:2

2 Corinthians 1:10

Luke 4:18

Acts 5:31

Romans 11:26

Acts 4:12

1 Thess 1:10

1 Tim 4:10

John 8:32, 36