

## **The Madman and the Pigs**

Luke 8:26-39

by Don Falkos

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Jesus and his disciples sailed across to the other side, the Gentile side, of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus stepped out of the boat and was met by a man who was possessed by evil spirits and who, for a long time, had lived naked among the tombs, scavenging for enough food to survive. When the man saw Jesus the evil spirits cried out, "You are the son of the Most High God. Please, don't send us into the pit. Don't send us into the pit. Look, over there, you see that herd of pigs, allow us to go into them."

"Very well," said Jesus, "Go."

The evil spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs. The entire herd went berserk. The pigs ran down the slope into the sea and were drowned. Those who had been tending the pigs ran back to town and told everyone what had happened.

When the people of the town went out to see for themselves, they found the man who had been possessed by evil spirits sitting at Jesus' feet fully clothed and completely sane. Those who had seen it explained how this 'madman' had been healed. But the people were overcome with fear and begged Jesus to leave.

Jesus got back into the boat. But the man who had been healed came to Jesus and said, "Let me go with you."

Jesus said, "No. Go back home and tell everyone what God has done for you."

After Jesus had gone, the man went home and told the wonderful story of what Jesus had done for him to anyone who would listen.