

Why Jesus Let 5,000 Demons Drown 2,000 Pigs

Written by Bill Perkins

"He gave them permission, and
the impure spirits came out and went into
the pigs. The herd rushed down the steep bank into
the lake and was drowned."

— Luke 8:32

Decapolis—ten Gentile cities east of Galilee.
Pagan worship,
Roman power,
animal sacrifice.
It happened there.

A man was demonized—
a legion, five thousand—
tormenting one soul.
He tore the chains,
lived among tombs,
beyond human help.

The demons saw Jesus.
They begged—not for mercy, not for pardon—
for permission to leave the man
and enter the pigs.
Jesus permitted it—not to spare them,
but to expose them; He let evil show its nature.

Two thousand pigs,
five thousand demons—
their plunge into the sea
revealed slaughter as their nature.
Not spared from the pit,
but unmasked.

Jesus dismantled the tyranny of demons,
the futility of human restraint,
and the exile of shame—
released mercy to restore dignity,
and a story that proclaimed freedom.

The man once bound among tombs
became a living witness.
His scars turned to sentences,
his restoration to proclamation.
One soul, freed,
outweighed an entire economy.

So it is with us:
Jesus dismantles what enslaves,
restores what shame has stolen,
and sends our story
to proclaim freedom.

You may not know this about Jesus:
one soul matters more than two thousand pigs.

Where have I tolerated compromise because it profits me?
What systems would Jesus dismantle to free my soul?
Am I willing to let Him expose what I've normalized,
even if it costs me comfort or gain?

I'm quick to measure worth by what I can build
or protect. Jesus confronts that:
one soul outweighs an entire economy. He exposes evil,
restores dignity, and turns scars into sentences
of freedom. My story, once bound, becomes His testimony.

Father, in Jesus' name,
expose what I have tolerated.
Shatter the compromises I've excused.
Where profit has blinded me,
open my eyes to the worth of one soul.
Unmask the powers that bind,
restore dignity by Your mercy.
Give me courage to tell my story,
to proclaim what You have done,
and to live free in Your unapologetic grace.
I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.