

“Pork Chops or People?”

Based on Luke 8:26-39 (NIV) June 16, 2019
Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Luke 8:27-30

27 When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!"

29 For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

30 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him.

† **Jesus comes to this demon-possessed man as he is.**

† **Jesus comes to me as I am.**

† **God created me as I am to be and God can restore me through Jesus Christ**

Luke 8:32-33

32 A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission.

33 When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

† **For any Jew, this would make perfect sense for unclean spirits to be sent into unclean animals, for the Jews consider pork unclean.**

† **However, this was not in Jewish territory, but Gentile (non-Jewish) territory, and these pigs were the farmers to raise and sell.**

Luke 8:36-37

36 Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured.

37 Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

† **The people valued their money (their pigs) more than they valued the life and soul of a man.**

† **No "thing", nothing, in this world can ever be as important as a person.**

† **I am priceless.**

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† When have I valued money or things over a person?

† Do I see myself for who I truly am?

† Do others see me for who I truly am?

† What "demons" possess me?

† Have I let God through Jesus Christ help me in dealing with them?

† How is God through Jesus working in me to help someone with their "demons"?