

Sunday, June 19, 2022
2 Pentecost, Year C

Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners, and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony of God's mercy and power.

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁶Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

OPEN

- Where do you go to "get away from it all"? What do you do for "kicks"?
- When did a vacation turn into something you never expected? What happened?

DIG

- After 8:22-25, how might the disciples be feeling: As they arrive in the other side of the lake? Once they realize they are in a graveyard? As the demoniac runs toward them?
- How does Jesus treat the man differently than the way others have? What is the net result?
- How do the pig farmers respond? The towns people? Of what are they afraid? Why?
- The man wants to go with Jesus, but is turned down. Why? What happens instead?

REFLECT

- In your life right now, what is the thing that wears on you, that makes you feel like a "legion" (6000 soldiers) is marching through your head, keeping you awake at night or torn at work?

- When, if ever, have you wanted Jesus to leave you alone? To get out of your life?
- Have you ever been like the townspeople who don't want to listen to the claims of Christ if it means a big change in life?
- When you first "met" Jesus, how did he treat you? How was this different from the way others treat you?