

# Questions for Gospel Harmony #56

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Matthew 8.28-9.1; Mark 5.1-20; Luke 8.26-40

1. How do the Gospel writers describe the condition of the man that met Jesus? What is significant about these descriptions? (Matthew 8.28; Mark 5.1-5; Luke 8.22)

Special Question: There are several apparent discrepancies between the various accounts of this incident. Explain how the following may be resolved –

- What was the name of the country where Jesus came? Why do the Gospel writers use different names?
  - How many men met Jesus? Why do the Gospel writers differ on this detail?
  - Was the man possessed by “an unclean spirit” or “demons”?
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2. What did the demon possessed man do when he saw Jesus? How did he address Jesus? Explain the phrase: “torment us before the time.” Were these questions from the man or the demons within him? Explain your answer. Why did Jesus command the demons to come out of the man? Define the word “legion.” Why



## Matthew 8.28-9.1; Mark 5.1-20; Luke 8.26-40

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He had come out of the boat, when He stepped out on the land, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Have You come here to torment us before the time? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." For He had commanded the unclean spirit, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many." Because many demons had entered him. Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a good way off from them a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, send us to the swine, that we may enter them." And at once Jesus gave them permission. And He said to them, "Go." Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the whole herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea and perished in the water. So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed, and about the swine. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes begged Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but sent him away, saying: "Go home to your friends, return to your own house, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him.