

What Jesus Said

6. Matthew 8:23-34. *Jesus shows His Mastery*

This story is found in the in St. Matthew's 8th Gospel between verses 23 and 34. – We write it like this: **Matthew 8:23-34**. *BibleHomework* uses this format throughout its website.

The Scripture:

Jesus Calms the Storm

Matthew 8:23 - Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.

8:24 - Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.

8:25- The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

8:26 - He replied, "**You of little faith, why are you so afraid?**" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

8:27 - The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Jesus Restores Two Demon-Possessed Men

8:28 - When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.

8:29 - "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

8:30 - Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding.

8:31 - The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

8:32 - He said to them, "**Go!**" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water.

8:33 - Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

8:34 - Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

The Explanation:

Jesus shows his Mastery in two consecutive stories here. Firstly he banishes evil spirits into a herd of pigs and secondly he rebukes the wind and calms the seas. However it seems that the whole town is not too pleased with his actions regarding the pigs as they ask him to leave.

Places and People Mentioned:

Gardarenes: Today called Umm Qais (Arabic: أم قيس, also transliterated as Umm Qays) is a town in northern Jordan near the site of the ancient town of Gadara. It is situated in the extreme north-west of the country, where the borders of Jordan, Israel and Syria meet, perched on a hilltop, overlooking the sea of Tiberias, the Golan heights and the Yarmuk gorge.

Questions:

1. Why did the Disciples wake Jesus?
2. Why should there not have been a need to wake him?
3. What did Jesus do when woken by the Disciples?
4. What was the men's opinion of this?
5. Why do you think the demon-possessed men were violent?
6. Who is the 'Son of God'?
7. Why did the demons leave the body when Jesus commanded "Go!" ?
8. Why do you think townspeople ask Jesus to leave the region?