

Church of God Sunday School

LEGION FINDS NEW LIFE

Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

Jesus and His twelve disciples had just come by ship to the country of the Gadarenes (*gad-uh-REENS*).

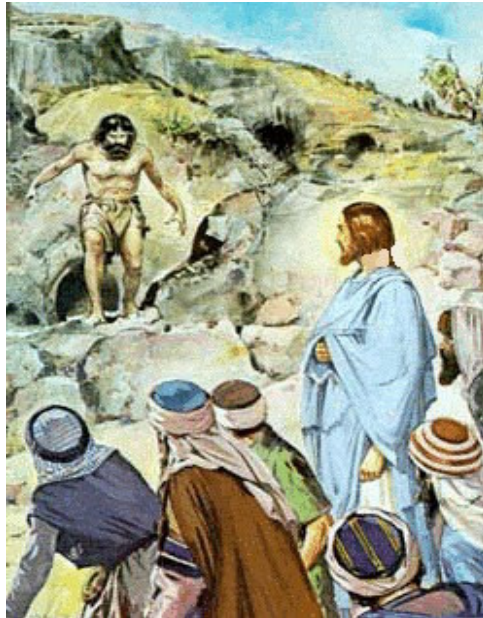
As soon as Jesus climbed out of the ship, He was met by a man who had come from the city of Decapolis (*dee-KAP-uh-lis*). Actually, he came out of the cemetery—out from among the tombs, or the graves. It was there that he spent most of his time. He would not live in a house. He wore no clothes! He was bound by Satan. He was a wild man! Men had tried binding him with chains, to try to control him, but he always broke free of the chains.

Day or night, this man could be found either in the mountains or among the tombs in the cemetery. He could be heard crying, because he would torture himself, by cutting himself with stones. What an awful way to live—but he was bound by Satan. He did not want to live that way.

When the man saw Jesus and His disciples afar off, he ran to Jesus, fell down at His feet, and worshiped Him. He cried in a loud voice: "What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not." Jesus had commanded Satan to come out of him.

Jesus asked the man his name, and he said, "My name is Legion [*LEE-juhn*]: for we are many [he had many devilish spirits in him]." Those spirits begged Jesus not to send them away, out of the country. They had to get Jesus' permission to go somewhere.

Nearby, on the mountainside, there was a large herd of swine, or pigs, feeding. The devilish spirits



asked Jesus to send them into the pigs. Those poor pigs! When Jesus commanded the devilish spirits to come out of the man, they came out and went right into the whole herd of swine.

There were about two thousand swine, and every one of them became tormented by those spirits. The swine ran violently down a steep place on the mountain that faced the sea. Yes, they were headed for the sea, but they could not stop! The whole two thousand of them ran headlong over the side of the mountain into the water and drowned!

When the keepers of the swine saw what had happened to the animals, they started for town as fast as they could go. On their way into town, they told everyone they met what had happened to the swine. Many people from town went out to see it for themselves.

When they came to Jesus, they also found the man who had been possessed by many devilish spirits. He was sitting at the feet of Jesus. He was actually in his right mind. He had his clothes on, and he was not cutting himself anymore! That made all the people afraid.



The ones who had seen the man delivered began to tell how he had been set free. The more the people heard, the more afraid they became. Soon, the whole multitude came together to ask Jesus to leave their country. They were so scared! What made them afraid?

Jesus did not try to persuade them to let Him stay. He went back to the ship, to get ready to leave their coasts. Do you suppose Jesus was saddened because they wanted Him to leave?

But the man who had been set free from the devilish spirits went up to Jesus and asked Him if he could go with Him. The man was so thankful to Jesus for delivering him that he wanted to be near Him.

What do you suppose Jesus told the man? Jesus said, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee."

The man went away to do what Jesus had said. He went back to the city of Decapolis, back to his family and friends. He began to tell everything that Jesus had done for him, which caused the people who heard it to marvel, or to be amazed.

Both Jesus and the delivered man went about glorifying God. Jesus delivered and healed people by God's power: that glorified God. The delivered man testified to the power of God that released him from the terrible bondage of the devil, and that glorified God too.

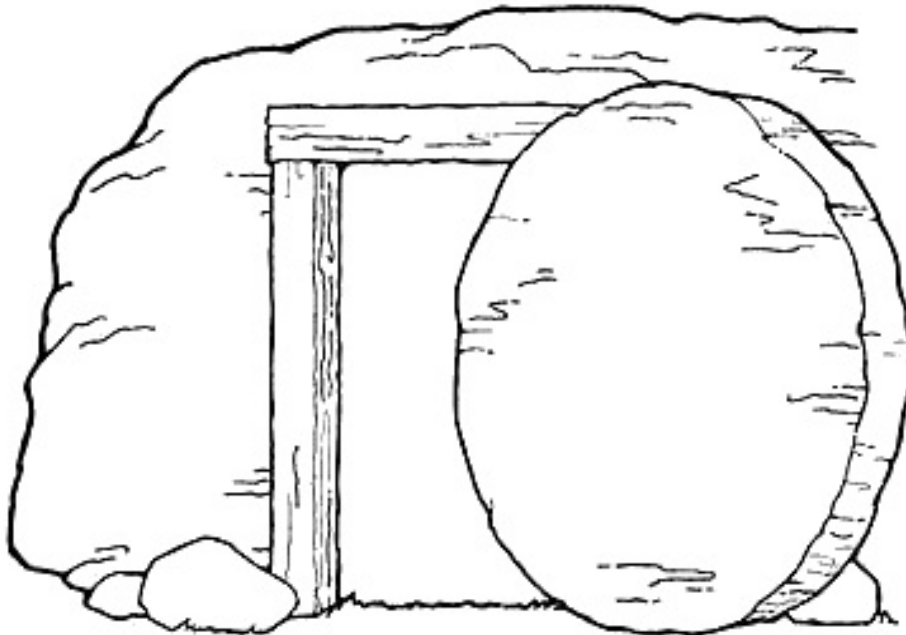
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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee . . . ."*

—Mark 5:19  
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Where Did Legion Come From?



He came out of the cemetery, or out from among the

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