

Lesson VII.

A FIERCE DEMONIAC HEALED.

May 13, 1906

Mark 5 : 1-20. Commit to memory v. 15. Read Matthew 8 : 28-34; Luke 8 : 26-39.

GOLDEN TEXT—Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee.—Mark 5 : 19.

1 And they came ¹ over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the ² Gad'arenes.2 And when he was come out of the ³ ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.3 Who had ⁴ his dwelling ⁴ among the tombs; and no man ⁵ could bind him, no, not with ⁶ chains:4 Because that he ⁷ had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been ⁷ plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: ⁸ neither could any man tame him.5 And always, night and day, ⁹ he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.6 But when he saw Je'sus ¹⁰ afar off, he ran and worshipped him.7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Je'sus, ¹¹ thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, ¹¹ that thou torment me not.8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, ¹² thou unclean spirit.9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he ¹³ answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

11 Now there was there ¹³ high unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

Revised Version.—¹ to; ² Gerasenes; ³ boat, straightway; ⁴ in the; ⁵ any more; ⁶ a chain; ⁷ rent; ⁸ and no man had strength to; ⁹ in the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out; ¹⁰ from afar; ¹¹ Omit that thou; ¹² saith unto him; ¹³ on the mountain side; ¹⁴ they besought; ¹⁵ he gave; ¹⁶ came; ¹⁷ rushed down the steep into; ¹⁸ came to see; ¹⁹ had come to pass; ²⁰ behold; ²¹ devils sitting, clothed; ²² even him that had the legion; ²³ devils; ²⁴ beseech; ²⁵ from their borders; ²⁶ as he was entering into the boat; ²⁷ devils besought; ²⁸ And he; ²⁹ to thy house unto; ³⁰ how he had mercy; ³¹ went his way.

12 And ¹⁴ all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them; ¹³ And ¹⁵ forthwith Je'sus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits ¹⁶ went out, and entered into the swine; and the herd ¹⁷ ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

14 And they that fed the swine fled, and told ¹⁸ it in the city, and in the country. And they ¹⁹ went out to see what it was that ¹⁹ was done.15 And they come to Je'sus, and ²⁰ see him that was possessed with ²¹ the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind ²²; and they were afraid.16 And they that saw ²³ it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with ²³ the devil, and also concerning the swine.17 And they began to ²⁴ pray him to depart ²⁵ out of their coasts.18 And ²⁶ when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with ²⁷ the devil prayed him that he might be with him.19 ²⁸ Howbeit Je'sus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go ²⁹ home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and ³⁰ hath had compassion on thee.20 And he ³¹ departed, and began to publish in Decap'olis how great things Je'sus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

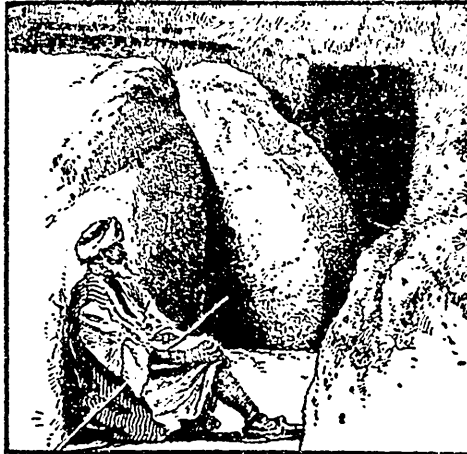
Time and Place—Autumn, A.D. 28; the country of the Gadarenes or Gerasenes.

Connection—The Lesson comes immediately after the stilling of the tempest on the Lake of Galilee, ch. 4 : 35-41.

I. THE VICTIM.—

1-5. They; Jesus and the twelve disciples. Country of the Gadarenes (Rev. Ver., "Gerasenes"); people living in and near Gergesa (see Matt. 8 : 28) or Gerasa (now called Gersa), a town on the eastern shore of the Lake of Galilee. Out of the tombs; which were often made in caves. A man. Matthew (ch. 8 : 28) says two. Perhaps one was more violent than the other, and therefore attracted special attention. With an unclean spirit (demon); defiling body and soul. No man could bind him; try as they might, v. 4. Chains . . . plucked asunder . . . fetters broken. Such fierce, unnatural, strength did the evil spirit give him. Tame him; a word

used of wild beasts. Mountains, and . . . tombs; now sitting in a lonely, empty tomb, now rushing madly to the hilltops. Cutting himself; in his mad frenzy.



Among the Tombs

II. THE VICTOR.—

6-17. Saw Jesus afar off; while the boat was yet on the lake. Ran and worshipped him; meeting Jesus as soon as He landed (see v. 2). The man realized the Saviour's power. Son of the most high God. The evil spirit now speaks through the man. Demons often recognized in Jesus a divine Person (see Mark 1 : 24, Lesson VII., First Quarter). Torment me not. It would be torment to this devil's agent not to be permitted to torment others. He (Jesus) said. The demon seems to have interrupted Jesus in the very act of giving His command. Come out; the short, sharp order of a Master. Thy name? A question to the man, perhaps intended "to recall the man to the remembrance of his humanity." Legion

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