

## The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 58

### Performing Miracles ~ Part 2

In our last post, we finished by examining **Yeshua** calming **Lake Kinneret**. This post will examine what happens when they reach the other shore.

#### Yeshua Heals A Demon-Possessed Man

*<sup>1</sup> Yeshua and His talmidim arrived at the other side of the lake, in the Gerasenes' territory.*

**Gerasenes' territory.** Mattityahu 8:28 puts this incident in the "**Gadarenes' territory.**" And some manuscripts have "**Gergesenes' territory.**" There were three towns in the region east of **Lake Kinneret** and nearby - **Gerasa, Gadara, and Gergesa** - so the same "territory" might reasonably have been named for all of them. The text does not state which "**town**" (v. 14) was the one involved.

*<sup>2</sup> As soon as He disembarked, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the burial caves to meet Him. <sup>3</sup> He lived in the burial caves, and no one could keep him tied up, not even with a chain. <sup>4</sup> He had often been chained hand and foot, but he would snap the chains and break the irons off his feet. No one was strong enough to control him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day, he wandered among the graves and through the hills, howling and gashing himself with stones.*

*<sup>6</sup> Seeing Yeshua from a distance, he ran and fell to his knees in front of him <sup>7</sup> and screamed at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Yeshua, Son of God Ha'Elyon (the Most High)? I implore you in God's name! Don't torture me!" <sup>8</sup> For Yeshua had already begun saying to him, "**Unclean spirit, come out of this man!**" <sup>9</sup> Yeshua asked him, "**What's your name?**" "My name is Legion," he answered, "there are so many of us"; <sup>10</sup> and he kept begging Yeshua not to send them out of that region.*

*<sup>11</sup> Now, there was a large herd of pigs feeding near the hill, <sup>12</sup> and the unclean spirits begged Him, "Send us to the pigs, so we can go into them." <sup>13</sup> Yeshua gave them permission. They came out and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering around two thousand, rushed down the hillside into the lake and were drowned. <sup>14</sup> The swineherds fled and told it in the town and in the surrounding country, and the people went to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup> They came to Yeshua and saw the man who had had the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind, and they were frightened. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it told what had happened to the man controlled by demons and to the pigs; <sup>17</sup> and the people began begging Yeshua to leave their district.*

The **non-Jewish Gerasenes** raised **pigs**. That **Yeshua** permitted the demons to enter the pigs, destroying harmless animals together with their owners' property, is raised as a moral argument against Him. But **God** has permitted demonic expression with evil consequences since the **Garden of Eden**. **Job** asked why, and God indicated that His dealings with **Satanic** powers are not to be understood fully by human beings at this time (Job 40–41). Some have suggested the demons destroyed the pigs to prejudice the owners against **Yeshua** - which is what happened.

*<sup>18</sup> As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demonized begged Him to be allowed to go with Him. <sup>19</sup> But Yeshua would not permit it. Instead, He said to him, "**Go home to your people, and tell them how much Adonai in His mercy has done for you.**"*

This is the only episode in **Mark's Gospel** in which **Yeshua** does not attempt to conceal His identity, but He also does not tell the man to proclaim to his friends how much He, **Yeshua**, has done for him. Instead, it

seems that He is telling the man to share how much **Adonai** - likely a reference to **God the Father** has done for him.

*<sup>20</sup> He went off and began proclaiming in the Ten Towns (Decapolis) how much Yeshua had done for him, and everyone was amazed.* ~ Mark 5:1-20 (see Mattityahu 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-39).

In our next post, we continue to focus on **Yeshua Performing Miracles** beginning in Mark 5:21.