

Kingdom and Conflict: Our Battle is not Against Flesh and Blood

Mark 5: 1-20

Rev. John Anderson

Bay Presbyterian Church

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Introduction: Operation Fortitude – code name for a WW II military deception.

**The Creation account: Genesis 1:1; 1: 2; 1: 24; 1: 31; 2: 8; 2: 15-17;
3: 1; 3: 6; 3: 11; 3: 12; 3: 15**

- **When you start from a presupposition of unbelief, almost any argument will do.**
- **We are desperate and secretly hoping that the skeptics are true, for if they are, and Christianity is NOT true, we control our own lives. So we are willing to believe any argument against the verity of Christianity.**

I. Act 1 – The Problem

- a. **Jesus just had finished showing a massive display of His holy power.**
- b. **He stills the sea and the reaction is fear: “What manner of man is this that even the wind and the sea obeys Him?”**
- c. **Colossians 1: 16 – “For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or authorities or rulers – all things were created through Him and for Him.”**
- d. **He demonstrated His authority over the physical universe to engender belief on the part of His disciples.**
- e. **Now, Jesus comes to the Garasenes.**
 - i. **Narrow shore line**
 - ii. **Small cliffs from the lake erosion**
 - iii. **Steep banked hillside**
- f. **A man approached who lived in the tombs, and he had some problems.**
- g. **The demons speak.**

II. Act 2 – The Fix

- a. **Jesus turns the tables on him and asks for his name.**
- b. **Legion**
 - i. **A Roman Legion was 6,000 troops.**
 - ii. **More likely explanation was that the townspeople gave him that name to mock him and the Romans.**
 - iii. **Begs Jesus not to send them out of the country.**
 - iv. **He sends them into some pigs who run down the steep hillside and drown in the sea.**

III. Act 3 – The Reaction

- a. **This was a miracle in its own right.**
- b. **The man was now clothed and in his right mind – the demons having gone.**
- c. **The towns people filled with fear, send Jesus away.**
- d. **Mr. Legion became an evangelist.**

IV. Take Away

- a. **There will be opposition and sometimes it will be because of evil.**
- b. **The gospel is powerful.**
- c. **The people of the Garasenes were given a test – and they failed miserably.**