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Jesus' Demon-Exorcisms: Merely Mental Disorders?

Bible Reading: Luke 8:26-39

Bible Reading: Luke 8:26-39 CSB 26 Then they sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 When Jesus got out on land, a demonpossessed man from the town met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes and did not stay in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torment me!" 29 For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was guarded, bound by chains and shackles, he would snap the restraints and be driven by the demon into deserted places. 30 "What is your name?" Jesus asked him. "Legion," he said, because many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged him not to banish them to the abyss. 32 A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. The demons begged him to permit them to enter the pigs, and Jesus gave them permission. 33 The demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. 34 When the men who tended them saw what had happened, they ran off and reported it in the town and in the countryside. 35 Then people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man the demons had departed from, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 Meanwhile, the eyewitnesses reported to them how the demon-possessed man was delivered. 37 Then all the people of the Gerasene region asked Jesus to leave them, because they were gripped by great fear. So, getting into the boat, he returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had departed begged Jesus earnestly to be with him. But he sent him away and said, 39 "Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you." And off he went, proclaiming throughout the town how much Jesus had done for him. (Luke 8:26-39 CSB)

SUMMARY: Jesus' encounter with the Gerasene demoniac —"Legion"— is Scripture's most vivid account of demonic possession and deliverance. For centuries, believers accepted it as fact, but the rise of modern science led many in the West to dismiss such miracles as superstition or misdiagnosed mental illness. Yet Scripture affirms a spiritual dimension of human life beyond empirical explanation. As secular thought grew medical and skeptical, many in the global South found their lived experiences aligning with the biblical worldview. This story reveals both the dehumanizing power of evil and the liberating authority of Christ. When the demons entered a

herd of pigs that plunged into the lake, the witnesses saw undeniable evidence of the supernatural—yet they responded with fear rather than faith. This dramatic deliverance stands as a powerful testimony to Jesus' supreme authority over the darkest spiritual forces. Today, Jesus' power still brings freedom where fear and bondage once ruled.