

# The 2,000 SWINE

in Mark 5:1-20 **were** / are ...

“Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.” And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.” (Mark 5:11-17)

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a special case

in various ways

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

able to swim

but still drowned (5:13)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

also in

Mat. 8:28-34 & Luke 8:26-39

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

an important part

of a great miracle story

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

impressive because

of how they died (5:13)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \*

not counted

in Matthew or Luke

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

not treated

kindly by Jesus

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

Descriptive



Meditation



**closely related to wild pigs**

\* \* \*

now considered

healthy food (1 Tim. 4:3-5)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

potentially

extremely dangerous

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

prone to

sudden collective panic

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \*

somewhat like the

frogs in Egypt (Ex. 8:1-15)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

the largest group

of animals in the N.T.

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

too many

in one place to be healthy

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

unclean

animals (Leviticus 11:7)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \* \*

used to demonstrate

Jesus' great authority

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\* \*

worth

a lot of money

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

**Directions:** after reading through **Mark 5:1-20** and some articles on domestic pigs and wild boar, consider and discuss how the herd of about 2,000 swine is described above. **Do you agree with the points made? Would you change or add to any of them?** — **At the end of the study, discuss the most important descriptive phrases and make applications**, thinking about why the 2,000 swine part of the story is included. The casting out the many demons from the man was a great miracle, but for some reason the swine are included as well. Why and so what? — © 2022-2023 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A. Copies may be freely made, but all commercial rights are reserved by the author.