
Parent BIBLE STUDY- Personal Preparation

Jesus had enemies. In the midst of His public ministry, the Jewish religious leaders began plotting to kill Him. (See Mark 3:6.) So one day, Jesus went to a land on the east side of the Sea of Galilee where Gentiles lived. Jesus' mission to the Gentiles was not a backup plan after the Jews rejected Him. When Jesus was a child, Simeon prophesied that His work would be for all people—both Jews and Gentiles. (See Luke 2:30-32.)

In that land was a man who needed help. (Note: The Gospel of Matthew describes two men.) An evil spirit was inside the man, and he suffered greatly. The people had tried to control the man by tying him up with chains, but the man broke free. So he lived alone in the tombs, crying out day and night.

When Jesus stepped ashore, the man ran to Him and knelt down. Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man, and the evil spirit spoke: "What do You have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You before God, don't torment me!" (Mark 5:7). Many evil spirits were in the man, and Jesus gave the evil spirits permission to go into a herd of pigs. They did, and the man was healed.

The healed man wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus told the man to go home to his own people and tell what the Lord had done for him. The man obeyed Jesus. He testified to the cities in that area about the Lord's mercy, and the Gentile people were amazed.

Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil. In His teaching, Jesus said, "If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you" (Matt. 12:28). Jesus—as well as the Bible—is clear that Satan exists, and he and the demons work against God and His purposes.

Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross, and He was victorious. A battle between good and evil still rages on today, but the outcome has already been decided. Spoiler alert: Jesus wins. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.