



Christ or Swine?

Mark 5:1-17

Swine were unclean to Jews

- **Deuteronomy 14:8** Also the swine is unclean for you, because it has cloven hooves, yet *does not chew* the cud; you shall not eat their flesh or touch their dead carcasses.
- **Isaiah 65:2-4** ² I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way *that is* not good, According to their own thoughts; ³ A people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; Who sacrifice in gardens, And burn incense on altars of brick; ⁴ Who sit among the graves, And spend the night in the tombs; Who eat swine's flesh, And the broth of abominable things is *in* their vessels.

The Event

- **Mark 5:1-6** ¹ Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. ² And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him.

The Event

- **Mark 5:11-14** ¹¹ Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. ¹² So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them."
¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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.

Has America traded Christ for Swine?

- **Matthew 6:24** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- **1 John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Has America traded Christ for Swine?

- Spend more on dog food or chewing gum than religion
- Spend 15 times more on liquor and gambling than religion
- 26,000 more bartenders than preachers
- 678,000 more taverns than church buildings

Has America traded Christ for Swine?

- Standard of living is up – Standard of life is down
- In many large cities – more babies are born out of wedlock than to a married couple
- Personal income rises – but giving does not keep up with inflation

What about Christians?

- Preach love – but argue, fuss, and create division
- Churches split over one cup, orphan homes, projector system, children's classes – and many more
- Most disagreements are over material matters
- **Philippians 3:18-19** ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame-- who set their mind on earthly things.

The End Result

- **Mark 5:15-17** ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine. ¹⁷ Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

Lesson to Learn

- They valued the swine more than Christ.
- They choose pigs over salvation.
- They sent Jesus from their coast.

- **What about us?**