

Leave Us Alone

Matthew 8:28-34
Halifax: 2 January 2005

Last week, we broke from our Matthew series for a message about the birth of our Lord, but today, I want to return to Matthew.

- In chapter 8, Matthew began writing about the miracles and wonders of Jesus that show Him to be the Messiah.
 - I have mentioned to you before that in chapters 8-9,
 - Matthew presents three triads of miracles, concluding each with a call to discipleship.
 - We have already looked at the first triad of miracles in chapter 8.
 - In this first triad, Jesus ministers to the lowly...
 - He cleanses a leper,
 - heals the slave of a gentile,
 - and cures the fever of an old woman.
 - Matthew then speaks of Jesus' great compassion as the one who came to take our infirmities upon Himself.
 - Then he concludes with the call to be neither hasty nor hesitant in following Jesus.
 - Two weeks ago, we began the second triad of miracles.
 - In this triad, Matthew presents to us the absolute authority of Jesus...
 - In each of these miracles, men are left awe-struck by the power that Jesus displays.
 - First, in verses 23-27, His authority over nature is displayed by calming the storm with a mere command...
 - Then, in verses 28-34, His authority is displayed over Satan,
 - This is the passage we will look at today.

In this account, we have Jesus arriving in the country of the Gadarenes or Gerasenes.

- Sometimes, Bible readers find it confusing because in Matthew,
 - they are called Gergesenes or Gadarenes (there are differences in the manuscripts)
 - and in Mark and Luke they are called Gadarenes or Gerasenes.
- The difficulty can be cleared up when you understand that the principle city in the region was Gadara, which we might compare to Halifax...

- and the place Jesus landed was a small village named Gerasa that might be compared to Rockingham.
- The residents of Rockingham can rightly say that they are from Halifax, but they can also say that they are from Rockingham.
- In the same way, the residents of Gerasa,
 - (which was a small village with a steep hill going down to the Sea of Galilee which also had tombs cut out of the Limestone)...
 - could call themselves both Gerasenes (with reference to their village)
 - or they could call themselves Gadarenes (with reference to the principle city with which they were associated).
- Let us now see what we can learn from Jesus' visit to this region...

I. First, learn from Jesus visit to Gadara that He came to save...

- He demonstrates this by going there and immediately freeing two men from the bondage to demons.
 - By this act, He shows that He has come to free the city from bondage to Satan.

A. Salvation was the purpose of His first advent...

1. Jesus is going to come again at the end of the world, and when He comes again it will be for judgement...
 - But His first coming was to save.
 - a. Jesus Himself puts it very plainly when He says:
 - John 3:17: "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."
 - b. The apostle Paul echoes this truth when he tells us:
 - 2 Cor 6:2: Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.
2. This means that from the time of Jesus' first coming until He comes again we are living in the day of salvation...
 - a. God will freely and graciously accept all those who repent of their sins and believe on Jesus Christ!
 - b. He came to bring salvation to this world that had been cursed on account of sin...
 - He came to bear our sins in His own body on the cross,
 - and God accepted His sacrifice.
 - This is the good news or the gospel...

- And Jesus has commanded His followers to preach the gospel in all the world...
 - He promises that whosoever believes will be saved.
 - “Now is the day of salvation.”
 - Now is the day to proclaim the gospel
 - When He comes again,
 - the offer will be closed.
 - It will be as it was in the day of Noah...
 - Noah preached repentance until the day that God closed the door to Ark...
 - As long as the door was opened,
 - it was the day of salvation,
 - but once the judgement day came, the door was closed and it was too late.

B. Now I want you to see how gracious Jesus is to come to Gadara with His salvation!

1. Jesus was very popular when He left Capernaum to go across the lake to Gadara.
 - a. He left a flourishing ministry in order that He might preach the gospel in Gadara as He had done at Capernaum.
 - How glad the Gadarenes should have been for this!
 - He stopped ministering in one place in order that He might minister to them.
 - b. How glad you should be—all of you who have heard the gospel!
 - Jesus has graciously sent His word to you...
 - He has sent His word to you when He might have sent it to someone else.
 - He brought you into contact with His truth in order that you might hear and believe!
 - c. And why did He come to the Gadarenes instead of another?
 - It was out of His sheer grace!
 - There was nothing special about the Gadarenes!
 - Jesus did not come to them because they were good, but because they needed to be saved.
 - That is why He came to you—

- whether you are a covenant child who grew up with godly parents or a stranger to God's covenant...
 - He did not come to you because you were deserving,
 - He came to you because you needed salvation...
 - Humble gratitude, not pride, is proper for those who have received the gospel.
2. His grace in coming to Gadara to bring salvation is even more marvellous when you consider what was foundational to His coming...
- a. Not only did He leave a flourishing ministry in Capernaum,
- but before that He left the glories of Heaven to visit our world!
 - This is a marvellous humiliation on His part—
 - for He is the One (as I showed you last week) before whom angels cover their faces!
 - He laid aside His royal dignity and took in the form a servant in order that He might bring salvation to us!
 - The God of glory took on the weakness of human flesh in a fallen world.
 - Jesus was able to come to Gadara with salvation only because He had first come to earth to save.
- b. And His coming here to save meant for Him that He must become our substitute...
- 1) It meant that He had to become the Lamb of God on whom the fullness of God's wrath was to be poured out.
 - 2) In the account before us at Gadara,
 - He had to become like the unclean swine the demons entered...
 - He had to allow Himself to be delivered over to Satan and plunged into the sea of God's wrath until He had paid the penalty of our sins.
 - Those pigs that were sacrificed for the demonised men are a picture of Jesus who became unclean and was sacrificed for us.
3. What a gracious Saviour He is to come to this earth with a purpose to save...
- when saving us meant that He must suffer so great a humiliation and so great a curse!
 - It was **this** Saviour with **this** purpose that went to Gadara...
 - He went to Gadara—that they might be saved...

- And it is the reason He comes to us today—that we might be saved.
- How gracious He is to come with this purpose to the undeserving.
- Never forget it!
 - There would be no gospel if there had not first been a willingness on His part to suffer for sinners.

TRANS> Let the fact of His going to Gadara remind you of His grace in bringing His gospel to you.

- He brings it with a purpose to save...
- But what if He came with such a purpose, but had not power to save us?

C. Well, it is this power to save that He also displays at Gadara.

- In this way, He shows that He is not only willing, but also able to save.
1. He came to this place and the first thing He does is meet up with these two men who were infested with a whole legion of demons.
 - a. The demons were so powerful, that these two men would roam about the tombs and were so fierce that nobody could go near them.
 - Mark and Luke say that at least one of them was so powerful that he could be held with chains, but would break them apart...
 - He would rant about, naked, cutting himself with stones!
 - b. What a terrible specimen of bondage to Satan...
 - This is what Satan would drive every man too if God allowed it!
 - The human race was turned over to Satan in the Garden when our Father Adam joined him in rebellion against God.
 - The result is that Satan is now called the god of this world and the one who works in the sons of disobedience.
 - We all know the power of sin and of temptation, and we ought to know that we are helpless to free ourselves from it apart from Jesus Christ.
 - Well here in these two demoniacs, we have a picture of the power of Satan over men.
 - Jesus calls him the strong man because he exercises such power over human beings.
 2. But Jesus shows that He is the Saviour who has power to release us from the dominion of Satan even when that dominion has become as great as it is seen to be in these two men!

- a. You see these men, controlled by the demons begin to cry out when Jesus comes!
 - 1) They recognise Him immediately to be the Son of God.
 - They recognise this before the disciples do.
 - It was not until much later (in chapter 16) that Peter finally confesses to Jesus at Caesarea Philippi that “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”
 - On the sea, the disciples wondered what sort of man Jesus was—
 - They come to Gadara and the demons tell them...
 - 2) Demons do not lack knowledge...
 - They knew Jesus when He created the world just as the Holy Angles did.
 - They have seen His majesty and glory, and now they see Him in human flesh at Gadara and they cry out in anguish because they know Him!
 - Do not think that the difference between a saint and a devil is knowledge—
 - The demons know all about Jesus Christ...
 - Often they know more than His followers!
 - 3) The difference is not in what we know, but what we do with Jesus...
 - A saint yields to Him, but a devil opposes Him.

TRANS> Not only do they recognise Him...

- b. They also realise that they are completely powerless before Him!
 - 1) You see here that they know He is going to torment them, and they do not even pretend to have power to stop it.
 - Their only hope is that the time of their final torment has not yet come.
 - They show this by asking “Have you come here to torment us before the time?”
 - What a miserable existence this must be!
 - To know that they are destined for torment and can do nothing about it!
 - It is no wonder that James says “they believe and tremble!”

- 2) Further, this account shows that they realise they can do nothing without Jesus' permission!
 - They show this by asking **permission** to go into the head of swine now that Jesus has purposed to cast them out...
 - "If you cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine."
 - They can do nothing unless He gives them leave.
- c. How important it is for you to see that Satan has absolutely no power over Christ at all!
 - 1) There are too many people today that miss the fact that every thing Satan does he does by permission.
 - God uses Satan to test His saints for their good and for His own glory...
 - When a person is disciplined from the church, he is said to be turned over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh that he might be saved.
 - God also uses Satan for the punishment of the wicked,
 - to blind them
 - to bring judgements upon them
 - even to bring them into greater bondage.
 - But Satan cannot lift one finger without the permission of the Lord.
 - 2) This should give you confidence that Jesus has the authority to save you from Satan's clutches.
 - Yes, God turned us over to him when we fell and he is the god of this world who "works in the sons of disobedience," and who blinds the minds of those who do not believe...
 - He is a bully who picks on the sons of Adam—
 - but like all bullies,
 - as soon as One greater comes along, he cowers in fear and pleads for mercy.
 - He melts before the presence of our Lord!
 - As soon as Jesus tells Him to go, He goes!
 - And so it happened at Gadara.

TRANS> Take heart!

- The glorious Saviour comes to save!
 - He comes with a gracious purpose of salvation...
 - And He comes with full power to save!

- Jesus is here, ready and able to save...
 - This leads us to the next thing you should learn from this passage...
- II. You are a member of the human race whom Jesus came to save and not a devil.**
- **Do not, therefore, look upon this Saviour as the Devil does!**
- A. That is our great problem as human beings...
1. The Devil and his angels rebelled against the Lord, and he has no hope for mercy.
 - a. There is no salvation for Satan or for any of the fallen angels...
 - Jesus did not take on the nature of angels, but of man because it was man He came to redeem.
 - Therefore, Satan looks upon Christ the Saviour with nothing but dread because Christ as Saviour will judge Him...
 - Saving us means for Satan, casting Him into the Lake of Fire where he will be unable to molest us ever again.
 - b. But God allowed Satan to test our love for Him in the garden...
 - We were on trial to see if we loved God in the Garden...
 - And we failed the test when Adam ate of the forbidden fruit.
 - c. The way Satan tested us was very effective...
 - He tested us by trying to get us to look upon God as he does...
 - to look at God as one who will torment us if we have anything to do with Him...
 - He was very convincing and we believed Him.
 2. The great problem with human beings is that we have listened to Satan and looked at God as One who will torment us if we come to Him.
 - a. In the Garden he tempted us to believe that we would be better off to have nothing to do with God...
 - “Break God’s covenant and you will be free to do as you please...”
 - “You will not be crushed but you will be like God.”
 - “You will not die, but you will live!”
 - b. And now that Christ has come with a purpose of salvation,
 - Satan continues to blind men to make them think Jesus comes to torment them rather than to save them!

- 1) He makes sinners think that if they come to Jesus they will lose their lives instead of gaining them...
 - And of course it is true that they will lose their lives of sin in this world...
 - But they will gain eternal life in a world of perfected love.

- 2) What kind of loss is it when a pig is changed to an angel!
 - Is it true that he has lost his freedom to wallow in the mire?
 - Or is more that he no longer **wants** to wallow in the mire?
 - His nature has been changed!

 - The demon possessed men were free to run about naked among the tombs and cut themselves with stones after Jesus delivered them...
 - but they did not want to do such things.
 - Sin is not freedom, it is gross distortion, ruin and death.
 - Jesus sets you free from sin which is true happiness...
 - but Satan wants you to think that He brings you into bondage to torment you if you turn to Him!
 - I tell you, He is wrong!
 - The Son of God did not humble Himself and come to earth to die on the cross in order that He might torment you!
 - He came to seek and to save that which was lost!

- 3) It has been my experience on many occasions to try to tell people about the Saviour and never get a chance...
 - As soon as I tell them about the true God and His holiness, they want nothing to do with Him.
 - They will not wait to hear the good news.
 - All they can see is torment.

B. Now I want you to look at the foolish question these demons ask:

- “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God?”
- What kind of question is that, you demons?

1. He is your Creator

- He has made you and given you all that you have...
- You were made for His glory and purpose and to Him you own all things...

- Does a creature have no connection with his Creator?

TRANS> “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God?”

2. He is your Sustainer...

- It is by His strength and will alone that you live and move and have your being.
- You can do nothing at all unless He supports and upholds your life.
- Do not pretend that you live by your own steam.

TRANS> “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God?”

3. He is your master and Lord to whom all obedience is due!

- Your glory is found only in serving Him—
 - Breaking away from Him puts you to ignoble usage... it degrades you and ruins you.
 - Ichabod is written on you—the glory is departed.
- You have completely lost the glory...
 - You are like a precious golden necklace used to lace up an old work boot...
 - You are like a new Rolls Royce parked behind a cafeteria to be used as a dumpster.
 - You are like an antique Persian Rug that is used by a mechanic to wipe his feet between the garage and the office.

TRANS> “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God?”

4. He is your judge to whom you must give an account

- You may not have anything to do with Him as a Saviour, but you have much to do with Him as your Judge...
 - Justice will be done and you will be tormented night and day forever and ever,
 - in the place you have chosen...
 - away from the presence of His glorious grace.

TRANS> “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God?”

- But this is a question the demons may ask of Him as Saviour...
 - Indeed, unlike for human beings, He has nothing to do with saving you...

C. But this is not a suitable question for any son of Adam to ask!

1. Jesus is the Saviour of the world,
 - that is what He has to do with us!
2. You have much to do with Him...
 - But I warn you, if you remain with Satan and have nothing to do with Jesus...
 - If you continue to treat Him as One who has come to torment you...
 - Then you will share eternity with the devil and His angels.
3. I hope you can see that it is a very foolish question for you to ask Jesus...
 - “What do we have to do with you?”
 - Do not believe the lie...
 - Do not let the wicked One deceive you.

III. Do not do these Gadarenes did—they gathered together and asked the Lord to depart from them!

- In verse 34, Matthew says:
 - “And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged *Him* to depart from their region.

A. They **begged** Him to do so!

1. You might understand this if they were demons...
 - As we have seen, He did not come to save demons...
 - But these were human beings...
 - Human beings to whom Jesus had come with purpose and power to save and **they** beg Him to depart!
 - He had shown them His purpose and power to save,
 - but they would not have it!
2. It is a sad thing that this prayer is offered with such earnestness!
 - a. Fervent prayer is commended in the Bible...
 - It is good for you to beg things of the Lord...
 - To earnestly entreat Him...
 - To wrestle with Him as Jacob did and say, “I will not let you go until you bless me”

- To keep pleading with Him as the importunate widow plead with the unjust judge.
 - Fervent prayer is a good thing if it is prayed for the right things...
- b. But here is a fervent prayer that Christ would depart!
- How shameful it is that sinners are more fervent in praying this prayer than we are in praying for salvation...
 - They want to make sure that He stays away from them!
 - “We don’t want you here!”
 - “Please leave us alone!”
 - “Please depart from our coasts at once!”
- B. Your depravity is seen in nothing so much as your fervency to avoid the Saviour!
- Here He is, a loving gracious saviour and men and women beg him to depart!
1. There are people who will go to great lengths to keep the Saviour away...
- a. There are some who do great harm to themselves to avoid Him...
- They will drink themselves drunk to drown their conscience...
 - They will fill their bodies with drugs to make sure He cannot get too close.
- b. There are some who go to great personal sacrifice to keep the Saviour away...
- Rather than turning to Him for salvation, they will give themselves to morality to try to prove that they don’t need a Saviour...
 - Or they will torture their bodies with religious rites in an effort to atone for their guilt.
- c. There are some who will do great harm to others to keep the Saviour away...
- They begin by arguing with those who know Him, but when that fails...
 - They begin to ridicule them for what they believe...
 - And when that fails...
 - They begin to falsely accuse them and slander them...
 - And when that fails,
 - They begin to persecute them and try to remove them from the earth.
 - This is the same spirit that Jesus met with...

- First argument and testing with questions (“Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?”)
- Then ridicule (“No prophet ever came from Nazareth”)
- Then false accusation (“He deceives the people”)
- And finally crucifixion.

TRANS> All this energy and all this effort to try to get rid of Jesus.

2. There are people who make a career out of keeping the Saviour away...
 - a. There are scientists who labour all their days to come up with plausible theories to deny Him as Creator...
 - b. There are politicians who labour to silence all voices that condemn their immoral lives...
 - c. There are preachers that work hard at distorting the gospel and making sure the true Saviour never comes into their sermons or their churches.
 - Seminary professors that labour to find error in the scriptures to prove that it is not God’s word.
 - d. There are psychiatrists that labour to remove all guilt feelings from their patients and themselves so as to deny that they need a Saviour....
 - e. There are authors who write books to drive Jesus away...
 - f. There are sentimental mothers who try to keep him away from their children so He will not upset them and destroy their self-esteem.

TRANS> I could go on and on about all the efforts that are made to get Jesus to depart.

3. But now I must ask you also, Christian...
 - Are there not times when you do not want the Saviour around?
 - a. Do you want Him around when you are full of adulterous thoughts?
 - b. Do you want Him around when you are yelling at your wife?
 - c. Do you want Him around when you are boasting about your accomplishments—“Just a minute, let me finish, then you can come!”
 - d. Do you want Him around when you are drinking to excess?
 - e. Do you want Him around when you are trying to avoid ministering to the needs of your family—or to the needs of a neighbour?
 - f. Do you want Him around to bother you when you are nursing a grudge or harbouring bitterness and resentment?
 - g. Do you want Him around when you are having a pity party?

- h. Do you want Him around when you are trying to put off something you have been asked to do by your mother or pretend you did not hear her call?
4. Let me tell you some symptoms of this “wanting Jesus to depart.”
- a. A person who wants Jesus to depart will not want to spend time with people who are truly godly...
 - Perhaps with those who are very religious, but not those who are godly...
 - A godly person will be always looking to Jesus and will not pretend to be righteous apart from Him.
 - b. A person who wants Jesus to depart will keep himself at a distance from the means of grace...
 - Such a person will be distracted when the word is preached...and quickly forget a sermon five minutes after it is preached.
 - Such a person may pray, but he will not really pray—he won’t really come before God, but will just go through the motions of devotions.
 - Such a person may sing, but he will not think about the words and what they mean...
 - Such a person may read the Bible, but he will not apply it to himself or think about it as God’s word.

TRANS> See that you do not push Him away.

C. But why does anyone want the Saviour to depart?

- 1. Well first of all, let me say that it makes a lot of sense to want Him to depart if you do not wish to be saved from your sin.
 - a. Indeed, He will make you positively miserable if you stay around Him and you do not want to be saved from your sin...
 - Of course, people want to be saved from many things like sicknesses and sorrow...
 - Jesus will save us from those things, but those are secondary benefits to our being saved from sin...
 - Salvation from sin is our greatest need.
 - b. I have to hand it to the Gadarenes in this respect...
 - When they saw Jesus and His power to save by His casting out of the demons from these two men...
 - they rightly understood that if He were to remain among them, He would change things!

- They did not pretend that they could have Him as a Saviour that would deliver them from the things they wanted to be delivered from (poverty, sickness, sorrows) on their own terms.
 - They realised that if He were to come among them,
 - He would be making them holy and pure...
 - Those who were cheating in their businesses would have to stop cheating...
 - Those who were committing adultery would have to stop committing adultery with Him around...
 - Those who were harbouring bitterness against their parents or someone else would have to put all that aside...
 - They saw those unclean pigs drowned in the sea and they saw Jesus as the One who would drive out all sorts of unclean things from their community if He remained...
 - And they did not want that, so they asked Him to depart.
 - But I have to admire them for not playing games!
 - They didn't pretend that they could have Him on their own terms...
 - I wish there were more people like that in our society!
 - We act like we can rebel against Him and still have His favour!
2. If you do not want to be saved from your sins, don't pretend that you want Jesus.
- You wouldn't like heaven at all unless you want to be holy as God is holy...
 - I don't mean you do not struggle with sin, but that is just it—you **struggle** with it and want to get rid of it...
 - If you cherish it and want to keep it, then the last place you want to be is in heaven...
 - because Jesus will be there and there won't be any sin.
 - So go ahead, if you want to stay as you are, then plead with Him to depart.
 - He did not come to leave sinners as they are...
 - He came to save us from our sins, so you had best send Him away.
3. But before you do that let me ask you a couple of questions...
- a. First, is your sin really that precious?
- Are you really so happy in your lust or your lying or your pride or your covetousness or your self-righteousness or your self-pity that you don't want to let it go?

- Is it any kind of lasting happiness that you find in these things?
 - There may be what the bible calls the pleasures of sin for a season, but what will you do when the season of pleasure is over?
- b. Second, do you really think it would be so bad to be saved—to truly welcome Jesus into your life?
 - Would it be so bad to be growing in love for God and for your neighbour?
 - Would it be such an awful thing to have the hope of eternal life and the assurance of God’s love?
 - Would it be so negative to be growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ so that you are becoming more and more like Him?

Come now, its really quite a foolish thing to ask this gracious Saviour to depart!

- If you don’t know Him, He comes to you with salvation...
 - Repent and turn to Him and salvation will be yours, instantly...
- If you do know Him, He also comes to you with salvation...
 - Do not try to push Him away from those areas of your life that you don’t want Him to mess with...
 - He will not let you keep them, and besides, what good will you gain in trying to keep what is not pleasing to Him?
- I urge you, do not ask the Saviour to depart!
 - Sometimes He may answer that prayer as He did with the Gadarenes....
 - We are left with Him departing and that is the end...
- But I want you to know that it was not really the end!
 - The truth is, we all resist the Saviour until He changes us...
 - Not one of us can boast that apart from His grace we would do anything different.
 - The demon possessed men resisted him with all they were worth, but Jesus saved them anyway.
 - There has never been a sinner saved who was not at first a resisting sinner...
 - and who does not, in this life, continue to put up a measure of resistance.

But Jesus saves resisting sinners...

- If you read church history, you will find that by the second century, there was a whole presbytery in Gadara—
 - They sent a representative to the counsel of Nicea in 325 AD.

- They may have rejected the Saviour, but He was not turned out so easily.
- Some how or another, He came back to them again...
 - Perhaps it was through the men that He cast the demons out of.
 - But whatever the case, it is not for you to presume that He will not turn away.
 - It is for you to come to Him gladly and answer His gracious call.
 - He promises: “Whoever comes to me I will by no means cast out.”
 - So come to Him and you will not be disappointed.

I. Good news for the Gadarenes! The Saviour has come!

A. He is ready to save you—He comes with this glorious offer

- left a flourishing ministry to come to you (sending of missionaries)
- left heaven and its glory to come to you
- is prepared to go to the cross to save you (the pigs are substituted for men as Christ must be delivered over to Satan for a time and plunged into Hell)

B. He is able to save you

- See what power He displays over Satan (to cast him out)
 - can do nothing without His permission (at His mercy)
 - knows that he is destined for torment in time (a picture of the judgement)
- See how He frees these men!
 - A very graphic display
 - All are under the tyranny of Satan until Jesus frees them.
 - What He does for this man, He does for the church and the world.

TRANS> So here He comes, full of grace and power, ready to save!

II. But see what kind of reception He gets at the “gate” to this region

A. He first meets with the spiritual governors of Gadara

1. Satan is called the ruler of this world
2. He has his emissaries here who come to claim their rights

B. They begin with a contemptuous question: What have we to do with you Jesus Son of God?

1. They recognise who He is.

- Jesus Son of God—
 - confession that Peter is not to make until much later by divine revelation.
 - on the sea, they wondered what He was, the demons tell them.
- difference in devils and saints is not knowledge.
 - they know Him very well but will not serve Him.
 - many people have much knowledge, but this does not save

2. This is a very foolish question (as if a creature has nothing to do with his creator)

- He is their creator to whom they owe all things
- He is their sustainer by whose strength they live and move
- He is their master and Lord to whom all obedience is due
- He is their judge

3. Obviously, this is no way to greet the Son of God.

C. They beg for more time

1. “Do not torment us before the time” (they know what is coming)

- See the tormentor begging not to be tormented
- Many are content with a little more time to work mischief.

2. “Let us go to the swine”

- They will do whatever mischief they can.
- Satan is given permission to remain, but he is restrained—Jesus has bound him.

III. The wretched prayer of Gadara

A. They pray that Jesus would depart

1. How can it be that they would reject the One who has come to save them?

- a. They do not want salvation
- b. They are afraid

2. It is all the more wretched because it is earnest

B. There are many who pray this prayer today