

Class Structure

- 1: Lords Prayer English & Greek**
- 2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation**
- 3: Pick a Saint to talk about and Miracles**
- 4: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English**

1: Lords Prayer English & Greek *(Pray with class)*

2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation

Ask the students who wants to read the Gospel

Luke 8:26-39 *(New King James Version)*

(Get a Student to Read) Ask who wants to read the Gospel

A Demon-Possessed Man Healed

26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee.

27 And when **He stepped out on the land**, there met Him **a certain man** from the city **who had demons for a long time**. And he wore **no clothes**, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, **he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!"**

29 For He had **commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man**. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was **driven by the demon into the wilderness**.

30 Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "**Legion,**" because **many demons** had entered him.

31 And **they begged** Him that He would **not command** them to go out into **the abyss**.

32 Now **a herd of many swine** was feeding there on the mountain. So **they begged Him** that He would permit them to **enter them**. And **He permitted them**.

33 Then **the demons** went out of the man and **entered the swine**, and **the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned**.

34 When those who **fed them** saw **what had happened**, they fled and **told it in the city and in the country**.

35 Then they **went out to see what had happened**, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, **sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.**

36 They also who had seen *it* told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed.

37 Then **the whole multitude** of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes **asked Him to depart from them**, for they were seized with **great fear**. And He got into the boat and returned.

38 Now **the man** from whom the demons had departed **begged Him that he might be with Him**. But Jesus sent him away, saying,

39 **“Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.”** And he **went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.**

This gospel teaches us to stay focused on Jesus because he is the one who can heal our demons and put us back on the correct path to God. Jesus' power is greater than all the forces in the world. In the Gospel, Jesus didn't go out looking for demons, but when he came across a man possessed by them, he dealt with them immediately and severely. As Jesus **stepped out on the land** and met the demon-possessed man, the man **wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs**. The demons had brought him down so far from God that he was in Hell on earth, which can happen to us if we don't follow Christ. When the possessed man saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, **“What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!”** Three things happened intimately that showed us Jesus was God and ruler of all things. **First**, the man **fell down before Jesus**, fulfilling **Romans 14:11** *“As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.”* **Secondly**, he **confessed that Jesus was the son of God**, which Jesus did not want known yet. **Third**, I beg You, **do not torment me!** This showed that Jesus had the power of God over the demons in this man. Jesus **commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man**. Before even asking his name, he commanded the demons to come out. It was a sense of urgency because he loves us so much and had so much compassion for the man he commanded it immediately. He was so possessed by the demons that **he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles**, and it could not hold the demons back, and they drove the man where he did not want to go. When Jesus asked the man his name, the demons said, "Legion." Legion was a unit of the Roman army, numbering 5,000-6,000. This was a way they told Jesus how many demons were in the man. **They begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss**. The demons knew how bad the abyss was, which was known as the place where God confines demons. So they begged Jesus not to send them there and begged that He would **let them enter the herd of swine**. As you

see here, demons do not even have the ability to possess swine, which in those days were considered unclean animals. It was logical that unclean spirits sought out unclean things like the swine. At this point, the demons thought they were getting what they wanted and were going to a better place, but **the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned**, ending up in the abyss anyway. When we follow God's will and not our own, the result will always keep us from spiritual bondage. If the demons could not enter the swine without permission, how do they get into people? People let them in through their actions or deception. The demon's goal is to lead our souls to Hell, and they will trick us and deceive us to give them permission to do so. The way we avoid this is to follow Christ. Do the things that leads us to God and keeps us from the evil one. Daily prayer, reading the Bible, and compassion toward your neighbor is a good start. Christ gives us free will to do what we want. In the Church, He has given us the sacrament of confession, when a sin is forgiven in confession, that gives a clean slate to start over and move closer to God. If we don't ask for forgiveness, that is more spiritual baggage we will be carrying. When those who **fed the swine saw what had happened**, they fled and **told it in the city and in the country**. They went to tell everyone what had happened, not because of the miracle for healing the demon-possessed man, but because of all the swine that died. In this part of the story everyone came to see what happened, because the pigs made them a lot of money and now they were gone. When they arrived, the man was healed, **sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind**. This showed us sitting at his feet that he was healed, he was attentive to listen to Jesus, he was a disciple of Christ now and wanted to follow Jesus. Those who were there and saw the miracle told those who came what happened, **and they were afraid**. When we are faced with Jesus, we can expect major changes in our life. From that point forward, we want be the same. We will follow him and grow closer to God, or we will do like the demons and ask him to leave. After the man was healed, he was grateful. He **begged Jesus that he might be with Him**, but **Jesus said "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you."** The man left and went **throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him**. Jesus doesn't always call everyone to do the same thing. It is important for us to listen carefully to what we have been called to do, so we can follow him and be one of his disciples. The one thing that Jesus has called us all to do as it says in **Luke 10:27 " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "** By following this one commandment we will be on the correct path to heaven.

Ask questions about Gospel then explain it to the students

3: *Pick a Saint to talk about and Miracles*

4: *Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English*

