

**“...our lives had become unmanageable” –
Who Is Managing My Life?**

1st Step – Lesson 9

They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him. (Luke 8:26-39)

The man from the tombs had his life “managed” by thousands of demons, who told him where to live, what to wear, what to say, etc. What are some of the things that influence your decisions?

- Need to be accepted, fear of rejection
- Fear of anger, depression, etc.
- Wanting to have it all
- Believing you have to do everything right
- Believing you have to fix whatever is wrong
- Resentments
- Self-hatred
- What else?

Jesus ordered the demons to reveal their name to him. How has it helped you to identify the forces that drive you? (e.g. “My name is Joe. I’m an alcoholic.”)

The man from the tombs was so bound up by the demons that he couldn’t even ask for help, but Jesus helped him anyway. How has Jesus helped you when you weren’t even asking for it?

The man from the tombs had what seemed like a good plan: follow Jesus. But Jesus told him he had a different plan for him. Have you ever had God block what seemed like a perfectly good plan for your life and put you on a different course?