



Daily Reflections

July 5, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 8: 28-34

When Jesus came to the territory of the Gadarenes,
two demoniacs who were coming from the tombs met him.
They were so savage that no one could travel by that road.
They cried out, "What have you to do with us, Son of God?
Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?"
Some distance away a herd of many swine was feeding.
The demons pleaded with him,
"If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine."
And he said to them, "Go then!"
They came out and entered the swine,
and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea
where they drowned.
The swineherds ran away,
and when they came to the town they reported everything,
including what had happened to the demoniacs.
Thereupon the whole town came out to meet Jesus,
and when they saw him they begged him to leave their district.

Our Scripture Reflection

I have always been astounded by the reaction of the home town crowd to Jesus' exorcism of two demonically possessed men. Why did they not have a victory celebration or carry out some gesture of thanksgiving for His having

helped their fellow citizens? No, instead, they beg Him to leave their town. What ingratitude! Isn't it interesting that in our own day some have pushed Jesus out of our schools and the public square?

Food for your Journey

Prosperity knits a man to the world," says a demon in C.S. Lewis's book *The Screwtape Letters*. "He feels that he is 'finding his place in it,' while really it is finding its place in him. His increasing reputation, his widening circle of acquaintances, his sense of importance, the growing pressure of absorbing and agreeable work, build up in him a sense of being really at home on earth, which is just what we want. You will notice that the young are generally less unwilling to die than the middle-aged and the old.

"The truth is that the enemy, having oddly destined these mere animals to life in his own eternal world, has guarded them pretty effectively from the danger of feeling at home anywhere else."

--Cited in *Christianity Today*, November 16, 1998, 82.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, I can't thank You and praise You enough for having given Your life for me. Help me to become grateful for Your sacrificial love. Amen.