

INTRODUCTION 引言

We are often amazed by people who can do extraordinary things. There was a true story about a famous boxer some years ago. He took pride in his strength. Once he traveled by air to another city. Minutes before take-off, a flight-attendant reminded the sport star: "Sir, please buckle your seat-belt." The man proudly replied: "Superman doesn't need the protection of a seat-belt." The lady responded without missing a beat: "Superman doesn't need to fly on a plane either." Perhaps the man has some super power other than flying. Our story today is about the supernatural power of Jesus. The Lord cast out evil spirits from a man. The incident is also recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Mark. All three passages complement each other by filling in further details. This is actually a series of four miracles Jesus performed. He calmed a stormy sea. He healed a woman suffering from a bleeding issue. He also brought a young girl back to life. In sum, Jesus displayed authority over nature, demons, disease and even death. But Jesus did not perform miracles everywhere He went. He did not come into the world to solve people's physical problems. He came to deal with our spiritual problem. We are separated from God due to our sins. Jesus is the only way to reconcile us with God. Jesus' miracles proved that salvation has come. Therefore, every Christian has experienced at least one miracle. Jesus saves us by grace. Those who receive God's grace should also share His grace. Today, Jesus sends us out to deliver a message of deliverance wherever we go.

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Possession by Demons 被靈所附

The main character in the story is a man possessed by demons. The event happened in Gerasenes, which was on the southeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was an area occupied by Gentiles. Those demons took control of the man. That led to some strange behaviors. He did not wear any clothes. He did not live in his home, but wandered around in a cemetery. The other two gospels add that the man roared day and night. He also used stones to cut himself. Local people were so afraid of him that they dared not walk by the location. They tried to lock him up. But he was even able to break the chains. Of course, he was not a mutant. His mighty strength came from the demons. The closest things we can think of are scenes in horror movies or zombies in computer games. Where do demons come from? According to the Bible, there is no such thing as ghosts. But demons are real. They are fallen angels under Satan's leadership. Satan used to be an archangel. He wanted to be equal to God. He took one-third of the angels and rebelled against God. You can refer to Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28 and Revelation 12 to know more. Since they were angels, they have certain power given by God. Satan and his evil spirits have one goal in common: stop people from believing God. They launch a spiritual warfare against God's people. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – **3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.** Christians are called to confront ideas, values and actions that prevent people from knowing God. Satan holds us captive

in various sins. The apostle John puts sins into three categories in 1 John 2:15-16 – **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. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world.** While most people may not be possessed by demons, they can be obsessed with what the world can offer. Examples are like fame and fortune. Some ladies show off their fashions and handbags. Guys boast about their job titles and cars. Young people brag about how many “friends” they have in their social media accounts. We are so busy to try to keep up with the Jones. Some parents sign up many activities for their kids and young people cannot let go of their devices and game-controllers. Those activities can turn us into slaves. Here is a simple test for you: if you can drop those things at ease, then you prove to be a master over your stuff. However, if you are too busy to read the Bible, attend church or slowly enjoy dinner with your family, then perhaps you have to cut back your schedule. Jesus should be our Master and we are His servants. We should put Him first in every decision. Choices are unwise if they make us look good and make the Lord look bad. Actions are godly if they reveal God’s glory and conceal ourselves. We should give thanks to God’s work always and talk less about our accomplishments. Let us keep Him center in our lives.

2. Permission from the Lord 蒙主允許

The demon-possessed man was out of control. But he was submissive to Jesus like a wild horse in the hand of a trainer. In fact, he sought the Lord’s permission three times. He prostrated before Jesus and asks the first permission in verse 28: **...“What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.”** The demon knew Jesus’ name and identity. His question “What have you to do with me?” can be interpreted as: “Please spare my life!” Then the Lord asked the demon about his name. His name “legion” is a military term. A legion is a thousand Roman soldiers. It simply meant many demons were possessing the man. By asking the demon’s name, Jesus displayed His authority. It is like a CEO meets you in the hallway and asks your name. You cannot say: “I don’t like to tell you.” Otherwise, he may say: “Why don’t you go to the human resources and get your last paycheck?” That is how authority works! The demon then asked Jesus for permission a second time in verse 31: **And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.** In the Biblical time, the Jews had a concept of a place in the depths of the earth where all dead people would go, waiting for God’s final judgment. The demons understood that it was a place of punishment for them. Matthew 8:29 gives us further information. The demons say: **...“What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?”** The demons knew there would be a future judgment. It will take place when Jesus returns. He will send Satan and his followers to an eternal penalty. God will also receive His children into glory. We are getting closer to that day. For now, God patiently gives people opportunities to repent of their sins. The Bible says: today is the day of salvation. Receive Jesus today and do not delay! The demons begged Jesus for a third permission in verse 31: **...“If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs.”** The gospel of Mark tells us two thousand pigs were there. With Jesus’ permission, the demons left the man and went into the pigs. They then jumped off the cliff and were drowned in the lake. Though the demons have power, they must submit to the Lord. Jesus shared some of that power with His disciples as they went out to share the gospel. They cast out demons and performed other miracles. It proved that their message was from God. Today, we unleash God’s power through His Word. Our speech cannot convince people to become believers. It is the Holy Spirit who opens people’s hearts. We

as Christians do not need to be afraid of demons. The Holy Spirit in us is more powerful than the devil. But we should not confront evil spirits either. After all, we know very little about the dark world. Satan is cunning. We should not expose ourselves and allow him to tempt us. For example, the Bible gives us clear warning not to consult a medium. You can refer to Leviticus 19:31 and Deuteronomy 18:9-12. Christians should not get in touch with fortune-telling, horoscope and feng-shui, etc. We should not celebrate Halloween either. I understand that kids love to have fun and candies. But costumes and decorations depicting demons are inconsistent with what we believe. We need to draw a clear line with Satan.

3. Profession of Grace 傳主恩惠

Just like that, the man was healed. He came back to his senses, put on some clothes and sat before Jesus. But the story does not end here. Jesus' miracles always came with a purpose. In this case, He asked the man to profess God's grace to others. Before we look at him, the passage tells us that the herdsmen were afraid as they witnessed everything. They then gathered everyone from the village. Verse 37 summarizes what happened next: **Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.** The pig's farmers had fear. But everyone else had greater fear. They did not want to make sense of the event. They did not want to deal with Jesus either. Therefore, they chased Jesus and His disciples away. In the Bible, people had different reactions to Jesus' supernatural power. Jewish religious leaders denied Jesus' authority because they rejected that He was God. Other people thought miracles were good because sicknesses were healed and demons were driven out. However, Jesus wanted people to focus on both the healing and the Healer. He hoped that people would believe that He was God. But the residents of Gerasenes did not want to get to know Jesus. People in the modern world have a similar mentality. They admit that the gospel is a positive message. But they are reluctant to accept Jesus. They would rather stick with the religions they are familiar with. Some people bow down to a statue, burn some incense and contribute money to the temple. Hopefully, those gods will bless them. Other people only believe in themselves. They think they can control their own future. But Jesus is not a genie in a bottle who grants us wishes. He is not a spare tire we look for in emergency situations. He is here to take over our life. He calls us to follow Him. The healed man understood that. Look at verse 38-39: **38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.** He wanted to follow Jesus. The Lord saved his life and so Jesus owned his life. However, Jesus had a different plan. He asked the man to go home and professed God's grace to others. He obeyed Jesus' command. Today, God does not call every person to be a pastor. But He asks all the believers to be missionaries. Jesus sends you to your family and relatives, and your friends and colleagues to profess God's grace in your daily life. Each of us has a unique testimony. Just like the man did, we simply tell people "Look at what God has done in my life!" Then you share three things. First, what kind of person you were before you received Jesus. Second, how you came to know the Lord. Third, how Jesus changed your life. If Jesus means so much to you, then you should tell others about Him.

CONCLUSION 結論

On that day, Jesus cast out demons that possessed a man. Jesus went back to where He was after the miracle. In other words, Jesus paid a special trip just to save one person. Unlike other Jews, the Lord did not despise the man for being a Gentile. Jesus showed no concern about making Himself unclean by going to a graveyard or getting near pigs. Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost. When you think about it, the story of the demon-possessed man is actually every person's story. Satan uses various things to hold us in bondage. It can be money and materials for some people. Perhaps it is the pride of self-sufficiency or the craving for others' acceptance. It can be the scar from a broken relationship or self-pity. No matter what it is, Jesus came to set us free from those chains that lock us up. He is calling you today: **"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** (Matthew 11:28) Come to Jesus, and let Him set you free. To those who have been saved, Jesus is sending you out to rescue those who are enslaved by Satan. Will you submit to Jesus' calling, go and deliver a message of deliverance?

INTRODUCTION 引言

我們常常對一些能做出不尋常事情的人感到驚奇。幾年前有一個關於一位著名拳擊手的真實故事。他為自己的能力感到驕傲。有一次他坐飛機去另一個城市。起飛前幾分鐘，一名空中服務人員提醒這位體育明星：「先生，請你扣上安全帶。」他卻自豪地回答：「超人不需要安全帶的保護。」那位服務員毫不猶豫地回答：「超人也不需要坐飛機。」也許那個人有一些飛行以外的超能力。我們今天的故事是關於耶穌的超自然力量。主從一個人身上趕出邪靈。這件事也記載在馬太福音和馬可福音。三段經文互相補充一些細節。這其實是耶穌所行一連串的四個神蹟之一。祂平靜風浪。祂醫治一位患有血漏病的婦人。祂還使一個小女孩從死裡復活。總個來說，耶穌的能力勝過自然、邪靈、疾病甚至死亡。但耶穌並沒有到處行神蹟。祂來到世上不是為了解決人們身體上的問題。祂來是要處理我們靈裡的問題。由於我們的罪，我們與神隔絕。耶穌是讓我們與神和好的唯一途徑。耶穌的神蹟證明救恩已經來到。因此，每個基督徒都至少經歷過一個神蹟。耶穌施恩典拯救我們。得到神恩典的人也應該傳遞祂的恩典。今天，無論我們在哪裡，耶穌差遣我們去傳揚得救的信息。

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Possession by Demons 被靈所附

這個故事的主角是一個被邪靈附身的人。事件發生在加利利海東南岸的格拉森。那是一個外邦人居住的地區。一群邪靈控制了那個人，於是導致一些怪異的行為。他不穿衣服、不住在自己的家裡，而是在墓地裡游盪。另外兩本福音書還說那人日夜吼叫。他還用石頭砍自己。當地人非常害怕他，不敢經過那裡。他們試圖把他關起來。但他甚至能夠掙脫鎖鏈。當然，他不是變種人。他強大的力量來自於邪靈。我們能夠聯想到恐怖電影中的場景或電腦遊戲中的殭屍。邪靈是從哪裡來的？根據聖經，沒有鬼魂這樣的東西。但邪靈卻是真實存在的。他們是撒旦領導下的墮落天使。撒旦曾經是一位天使長。他想與神平等。他帶著三分之一的天使背叛了神。你可以參考以賽亞書 14 章、以西結書 28 章和啟示錄 12 章來了解更多。既然他們是天使，他們就擁有神所賜的某些能力。撒旦和他的邪靈有一個共同的目標：阻止人們相信神。他們向神的子民發動屬靈爭戰。保羅在哥林多後書 10:3-5 說：**3 因為我們雖然在血氣中行事，卻不憑著血氣爭戰。4 我們爭戰的兵器本不是屬血氣的，乃是在神面前有能力，可以攻破堅固的營壘，5 將各樣的計謀，各樣攔阻人認識神的那些自高之事，一概攻破了，又將人所有的心意奪回，使他都順服基督。**基督徒被神呼召去抗衡阻礙人們認識神的學說、價值觀和行為。撒旦將我們奴役在各種罪之中。使徒約翰在約翰一書 2:15-16 中將罪分為三類：**15 不要愛世界和世界上的事。若有人愛世界，愛父的心就不在他裡面了。16 因為世上一切的，就是肉體的情慾，眼目的情慾，並今生的驕傲，都不是出於父，乃是出於世界。**雖然大多數人不會被邪靈附身，但他們可能會對世界所能給予的東西著迷。就像名與利。一些女士炫耀她們的時裝和手提包。男士們吹噓他們的職位和汽車。年輕人誇耀自己的社交媒體賬戶中有多少「朋友」。我們都太忙了，一

直想要趕在別人的前頭。一些家長為孩子報名參加許多活動，年輕人放不下他們的手機和遊戲機。這些活動會使我們成為奴隸。讓我給你一個簡單的測試：如果你能輕鬆放下這些東西，那麼你就是掌握這些東西的主人。但是，如果你太忙以致沒有時間讀聖經、來聚會或慢慢地與家人吃晚餐，那麼也許你需要刪掉某些活動。耶穌應該是我們的主人，我們是祂的僕人。我們應該在每一個決定中把祂放在首位。如果一些選擇讓我們好看，但是卻羞辱主，那麼那些決定就是沒有智慧的。如果某些行為彰顯神的榮耀並隱藏我們自己，那麼那些行為就是敬虔的。我們應該常常感謝神的作為，少談論自己的成就。讓我們把祂放在我們生命的中心。

2. Permission from the Lord 蒙主允許

被邪靈附身的那個人無法被控制。但他卻像馴馬師手中的野馬一樣順服耶穌。事實上，他三次尋求主的允許。他俯伏在耶穌面前，並在第 28 節中提出第一個請求：…「至高神的兒子耶穌，我與你有什麼相干？求你不要叫我受苦！」邪靈知道耶穌的名字和身份。他的問題「我與你有什麼相干？」可以理解為：「請你饒我一命吧！」然後主問邪靈他的名字。他的名字「群」是一個軍事用語，表示一千名羅馬士兵。這只是意味著許多邪靈附在這個人身上。通過詢問邪靈的名字，耶穌顯示出祂的權柄。這就像公司的總裁在走廊裡遇見你並詢問你的名字。你不能說：「我才不告訴你。」否則，他可能會說：「請你去人事部拿你最後的薪水吧。」權柄就是這樣操作的！然後，在第 31 節中，邪靈第二次請求耶穌的允許：鬼就央求耶穌，不要吩咐他們到無底坑裡去。在聖經時代，猶太人有一個概念，在地底深處有一個地方，所有離世的人都會去那裡，等待神最後的審判。邪靈明白，那是他們接受懲罰的地方。馬太福音 8:29 為我們提供了更多信息。邪靈說：…「神的兒子，我們與你有什麼相干？時候還沒有到，你就上這裡來叫我們受苦嗎？」邪靈知道將來會有審判。它將在耶穌再來時發生。祂會把撒旦和他的跟隨者送去永遠的懲罰。神也會迎接祂的兒女進入榮耀。我們離那一天越來越近了。在目前，神耐心地給人們機會悔改他們的罪。聖經說：現在正是拯救的日子。不要拖延，今天就接受耶穌！邪靈在第 31 節向耶穌第三次懇求：…「若把我們趕出去，就打發我們進入豬群吧！」馬可福音告訴我們那裡有兩千頭豬。在耶穌的允許下，邪靈離開了那個人並進入豬群。然後他們跳下懸崖，淹死在湖裡。邪靈雖然有能力，但是他們必須順服主。當門徒出去傳福音時，耶穌與他們分享了一些能力。他們能夠趕鬼，並且行其他神蹟。這證明他們的信息是來自神。今天，我們通過神的話語釋放祂的力量。我們的言辭無法說服人們成為信徒。開啟人的心是聖靈的工作。作為基督徒，我們不需要害怕邪靈。在我們裡面的聖靈比魔鬼更有力量。但我們不應該去招惹邪靈。畢竟，我們對黑暗世界所知的甚少。撒但很狡猾。我們不該暴露自己，使他試探我們。例如，聖經明確警告我們不要找靈媒。你可以參考利未記 19:31 和申命記 18:9-12。基督徒不應該接觸算命、看星座、風水等，我們也不應該慶祝萬聖節。我明白小孩喜歡玩耍和吃糖果。但是以邪靈為主題的服裝和擺設與我們的信仰不相符。我們需要與撒但劃清界限。

3. Profession of Grace 傳主恩惠

就這樣，那個人得了醫治。他神智恢復清醒，穿上衣服，坐在耶穌面前。但故事並沒有就此結束。耶穌的神蹟總是有目的的。這一次，祂要求這個人向別人傳講主的恩惠。在看他之前，這段經文告訴我們，養豬的人看到一切之後都很害怕。然後他們召集了村裡的所有人。第 37 節總結了接下來發生的事情：**格拉森四圍的人，因為害怕得很，都求耶穌離開他們；耶穌就上船回去了。**養豬的人恐懼，但其他人更加恐懼。他們不想弄明白這件事。他們也不想與耶穌打交道。因此，他們請耶穌和門徒離開。在聖經中，人們對耶穌的超自然能力有不同的反應。猶太宗教領袖否定耶穌的權柄，因為他們拒絕承認祂是神。其他人認為神蹟是好事，因為可以治癒疾病並驅趕邪靈。然而，耶穌希望人們同時注意醫治的結果和醫治者。祂希望人們相信祂是神。但是格拉森的居民不想認識耶穌。現代世界的人們也有類似的心態。他們承認福音是積極的信息，但他們不願意接受耶穌。他們寧願維持自己熟悉的宗教。有些人向神像跪拜、點香、捐錢給寺廟，希望那些神明會保佑他們。另外有些人只相信自己。他們認為自己可以掌握未來。但耶穌不是能滿足我們願望那個神燈裡的精靈。祂也不是我們在緊急情況下尋找的備胎。祂是要接管我們的生命。祂呼召我們跟隨祂。被治好的那個人明白這一點。請看第 38-39 節：**38 鬼所離開的那人懇求和耶穌同在；耶穌卻打發他回去，說：39 「你回家去，傳說神為你作了何等大的事。」**他就去，滿城裡傳揚耶穌為他做了何等大的事。他想跟隨耶穌。主拯救了他的生命，因此耶穌擁有了他的生命。然而，耶穌有不同的計劃。祂吩咐那個人回家，向其他人傳講神的恩惠。他聽從了耶穌的命令。今天，神並沒有呼召每個人都成為牧師，但是祂要求所有的信徒都成為宣教士。耶穌差遣你到家人、親戚、朋友和同事那裡，在日常生活中傳講神的恩惠。我們每個人都有獨特的見證。就像那個人所做的那樣，我們只需要告訴人們「看看神在我生命中所做的一切！」然後你分享三件事。首先，在你接受耶穌之前，你是怎麼樣的人。第二，你是如何認識主的。第三，耶穌如何改變你的生命。如果耶穌對你如此重要，那麼你應該告訴別人關於祂的事。

CONCLUSION 結論

那一天，耶穌趕走了附在一個人身上的邪靈。耶穌回到祂之前所在的地方。也就是說，耶穌專程來救一個人。與其他猶太人不同，主並沒有因為那個人是外邦人而看不起他。耶穌並不擔心去墓地或靠近豬會使自己不潔淨。耶穌的使命是尋找並挽救失喪的人。仔細想一想，被鬼附的人的故事其實就是每個人的故事。撒但用各種東西來捆綁我們。對某些人來說可能是金錢和物質。也許是以為可以靠自己的驕傲，也許是渴望他人的接納。它可能是破裂的關係或自憐造成的傷痕。不管是什麼，耶穌來是要將我們從那些鎖鏈中釋放出來。祂今天正在呼喚你：**「凡勞苦擔重擔的人可以到我這裡來，我就使你們得安息。」**（馬太福音 11:28）來到耶穌面前，讓祂釋放你。對於那些已經得救的人，耶穌差遣你去拯救那些被撒旦奴役的人。你願意順服耶穌的呼召，去傳揚得救的信息嗎？