

GOSPEL PEARLS

Preferring the comfort of the devil

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And when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. The

herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region. (Matthew 8: 28-34)

Those who are possessed by demons are not always guilty of the condition that reduces them to a state worse than animals. But their state of possession should make us reflect on just how foolish human beings are when they submit, by sinning voluntarily, to a diabolical spirit rather than to the Father who gave His beloved Son to them for their eternal salvation. The pigs after feeling invaded by the demons driven out by Jesus, cast themselves into sea in horror, while their herdsmen beg Jesus to leave the region. Evidently, they preferred the comfort of the devil to the demanding call of Jesus, who left them quietly to continue their work. Do we respond promptly to God's Will even when He is demanding or do we prefer to be quiet and do simply the things we are used to?