Intro: In Mathew’s account says that there were two men, and that there were two thousand pigs. So, why the difference? I don’t think it should be called a difference, but instead understanding why one author is giving different details than the other, while using the same story. I feel the one man is doing the talking and the other was not saying a word.

I. We must recognize that demon possession exists – 1 They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. 2 And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.

a. The church has stopped teaching this because of the backlash

• We don’t want to think of someone being possessed. Hollywood has made it look like a horrible, disfigured, and bad breath person that can turn the head around without dying. This is not what a possessed person looks like. It is how they acted and lived tells us they were possessed, as we will soon see.

° 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:10, 11

b. The power of Christ does put a hold on demon possession

• Yes, in the Old and New Testament it would have been easier for satan and his band of demons to control life and even possess someone, but through the power of the blood it is very hard for a demon to possess a person. This only happens if someone agrees to being possessed, other than that satan has no hold on us. The only power he has over us is what we give him.

° 17 no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute (*refute*) every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.” Isaiah 54:17

° 3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

II. Demon possession leaves a person in a hopeless state – 2 And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. 3 He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, 4 for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

a. Possessed people an unclean spirit

• There are some mental conditions that can be related to possession. If you think that flying planes into two buildings is not mental your crazy, if you think that killing a school full of children based on your trans-rights is not evil then you are mentally crazy. These possessed people do this type of thing all of the time.

b. Possessed people want to live among the dead

• He was living among the already dead. He was sleeping among the dead people. He was more comfortable with living with the dead people than the living. Normally possessed people will see that being around the dead is better than being around the living.

c. Possessed people will be cut off from society

• Possessed people want to live cut off from society. They will live like hermits that are like them. Some will live alone and be cut off from the world around them, and others will get a group of people and cut themselves off from the world around them. David Coresh, Jim Jones, many occults will do the same thing; isolate their members and start their anti-Christ teachings.

d. Possessed people are rebellious

• No one could tame his behavior. He was violent to his friends and family. He had a super-human strength. He represents the overpowering evil and corruption of man the weakness of man to deliver and save himself.

e. Possessed people will expose themselves

• I don’t believe that all that have exposed themselves are possessed. Peter exposed himself while fishing but put his clothes on when he went to meet the Savior on the shore.

° 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work (he was naked[[1]](#footnote-1)), and threw himself into the sea. John 21:7

f. The possessed man was a threat to other

• Demons are not your friend. They threaten your life and those around you. They don’t care if you believe in them or not, they just don’t want you to believe in Jesus Christ.

III. Possessed people will recognize the righteousness of Christ – 6 And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. 7 And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.”

a. Even demons will worship Jesus Christ

• What Hollywood has done is that they have made demons as being more powerful than a Christian, and will kill them or possess them, but this is far from the truth. Demons are afraid of you because of who you serve.

b. Demons know who Jesus Christ is

• Once again Hollywood makes it looks like Jesus is a coward and the demons are not afraid of Him in any way. But in actuality they are very afraid of Him, and can’t do anything to you unless you invite, agree, or let them. They also have to get permission to harm you from the Lord, as in the case of Job.

c. Demons know that they will be tormented

• Note what they said “have you come here to torment us *before* the time”. They do not know when the time will be when they will be sent to eternal hell and locked away for eternity, but they knew that there was going to be a time when this will take place.

° 28 And when he 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.   
29 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?” Matthew 8:28-29

IV. Demons know that Jesus is more powerful than them – 8 For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” 9 And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” 10 And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, 12 and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” 13 So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

a. Jesus didn’t treat them as if they were sick

• It is quite unique how we think that mental health is all wrapped up in a chemical imbalance in the brain. And yes, there is science to back this up, but all mental patients are not chemically imbalanced, in fact, Jeffery Dommer was very intelligent, Osamah bin Laden was said to have a very high IQ, but what does these intelligent men have in common besides their IQ, they were both possessed with evil.

b. Angels and demons have names and sects

• We are accustomed of just thinking of two angels with names, but here we find a demon that has called his crew Legion for they were many. So, if there were three with names, we can be assured that there are others with names also.

° 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. Luke 1:26-27

° 9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” Jude 1:9

c. They can’t do anything unless they get permission

• Hollywood makes it sound like demons are more powerful and godlier than God Himself. But this is far from the truth. In the presence of God satan has to get permission from either you of God to do anything to you.

V. The rejection of Christ and the acceptance of evil – 14 The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. 16 And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. 17 And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.

a. Jesus saw that the men needed freedom from being controlled by satan.

• Satan does not care about you; he wants to control you. God gives us free will, satan gives you nothing. He inflects pain, suffering, and depression. The battle we have is not between us and satan, it’s between God and satan and we are caught in the middle.

b. People will accept evil over God

• People don’t have much patience when their lives are turned upside-down. When bad things happen, we blame God for them without looking at the context. Jesus gave the order for the demons to be cast into the sea, but it was the demons that requested it, it was the demons that was making life miserable for the people, it was the demons that were causing the chaos. But just like we do today something bad happens and it’s God’s fault.

VI. One of the men showed gratitude for his freedom – 18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. 19 And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

a. The man knew what the demons had done to him

• They controlled him; where he slept, who he spoke to, where he lived. They controlled his every move, and he knew and could do nothing about it. When people are possessed, they have no free will. It is as if they have been put in a see-through closet with no escape. You see what is going on but can do nothing about it.

b. We must not be afraid to tell others about what Christ can do

• Here is where we have failed as a church, we don’t talk about demon possessions any more. We believe (and rightfully so) that people will think that we are crazy, mental, and unholy. When in fact we need to tell others about the evil we are facing every day. God is not our enemy but satan is. And he has twisted the bad in being our friend and that it is God who hates you and lies to you.

° 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

1. These are my words not ESV bible [↑](#footnote-ref-1)