

# Jesus Overcame Evil



The exorcism miracles of Jesus give a clear sign that people need not be afraid of the power of evil on earth. In the olden times people did not know the scientific causes for many illnesses. If the sick person started behaving abnormally, they presumed he or she was possessed by the devil.



Jesus showed the people that faith alone can help in overcoming the fear of evil. The faithful can help one another to get rid of evil by praying together as a community, or by approaching a priest. Still there are people who take recourse to witchcraft and other unscientific methods.

When Jesus exorcised, He never resorted to elaborate rituals or meaningless exercises like tying limes or amulets. On one occasion, He set free a tormented victim by simply ordering the evil power to leave him and go into a herd of pigs.

This man with an unclean spirit lived among the tombs of dead persons, crying and shouting abuses day and night. No one could control him because he would break free even when chained. But when he saw Jesus from afar, he came running to Jesus and begged to be set free.

Jesus asked the unclean spirit to leave the man and let it enter a herd of pigs, which rushed toward the cliff and drowned into the nearby sea. Then He told the man to go home and tell everyone how much the Lord had done for him.



## Word of God

Mark 5: 14 – 17

The men who had been taking care of the pigs ran away and spread the news in the town and among the farms. People went out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they saw the man who used to have the mob of demons in him. He was sitting there, clothed and in his right mind; and they were all afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the man with the demons, and about the pigs. So they asked Jesus to leave their territory.



## Insight

Italian Jesuit priest Constantine Joseph Beschi who worked in south India in the 18th century is remembered for his contribution to the Tamil language. His Tamil name was Vīramāmunivar. His acclaimed poetic work is Thembavani (The Unfading Garland) on salvation history and life of St. Joseph.

He compiled a Tamil-Latin dictionary and also translated many Tamil literary works into Latin. He introduced richness of the Tamil language to the western world. The Tamil Nadu government has erected his statue on Chennai's Marina beach.

