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not written by me in 1937
or Rev.
O.A.M.

Text: Luke 8:39

The story of the healing of the man who was possessed by a legion of devils is found both in Matthew and in Luke. But only Luke gives the sequel to the story. You remember that this man had been in a very bad situation for many years. He was running through the wilderness in utter wildness, and no one could tame him or control him. Our Lord drove the evil spirits out of him, and they went into the swine which were feeding there on the mountain, and caused them to run violently down the steep place into the lake. Then the people who had fed them ran and told it in the city and in the country. When the people there came out to see what was done they found the man sitting at the feet of Jesus clothed and in his right mind. But the people seemed to have been impressed more with the loss of the swine than with the good done to the man. At any rate we read that they begged Christ to depart from their country and that he went into the ship and crossed the sea to Galilee. The man urged him to let him go with him, but Jesus sent him away saying, "return to thine own house and show how great things God hath done unto thee," and he went his way and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

The next time Jesus came back to the country of the Gadarenes Luke tells us that the people gladly received him, for they were all waiting for him.

The first element in this verse to which I would call your attention is the disappointed man. A great change had come in this man's life. He had been turned from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God. His life was completely altered, as a result of the supernatural act which Christ had done for him, as he does for everyone who accepts him and is saved through his death. The thought of the One who had done so much for him filled his mind to the exclusion of all else. He wanted to follow him wherever he would go. But Christ sent him away and told him to go back to his own city and tell what had been done for him.