

SPIRITUAL TASK —THE DEMON (Mark 5)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story The demon-possessed man lived in the tombs and the mountains and day and night would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw the Lord the man ran and worshiped Him. The Lord cast out the demons who called themselves Legion and begged to enter the swine.

Meaning This story is symbolic of the pain and double life of living in disorder or with an addiction. We try to change, and really want to, but just can't—this causes the torment expressed by the man. To change we must turn our lives over to the will of the Lord and get some help and support from friends, family, or a recovery group.

Task First: this week in prayer to the Lord, give your life into His hands, that is, make His will for you your will for you. Then get a token (necklace, ring, coin, stone, etc.) and carry or wear it as a reminder that you are working to make the Lord's will your own. It should be something you can easily touch to remember. Second: find someone or a group you can confide in and commit yourself to being accountable to them and receiving support.