

# TAKEAWAY

## The Radical King

### Transformation through the story of Jesus

#### JESUS, DEMONS, PIGS AND DISCIPLES SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

#### INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, we looked at Matthew 8:28-34, a very strange little story...

#### READ

Matthew 8:28-34

#### DISCUSS

1. This story is a bit weird. How do you tend to react when you come across a weird story in the Bible? Why does God give us stories that seem very strange?
2. What do the demons get 'right' about Jesus? What do they get wrong?
3. Jesus says only one word in the whole story, "Go!" – and it is powerful. What does this word, and its effect, tell us about him?
4. The townspeople asked Jesus to leave their region. On Sunday, Matt suggested that this was because they were afraid of Jesus – and of what might happen in their own lives if he was around them. Do you think this is the case? Why would anyone be afraid of Jesus?
5. Many who are not Christians today respond to Jesus like the people from the town – they ask Him to leave, or never 'come in'. How much do you think fear is at play in this response? How far do you think people reject Jesus because they don't know what He's really like, and how far do you think it's because they do know and are afraid?
6. What areas of your life would you rather Jesus stayed out of? You might not be comfortable sharing these with the group – but it's good if you can at least be aware of them within yourself. Take a moment to think/pray about those things you're unwilling to change about yourself, even though you know they aren't what God wants. Ask God to give you more openness to Him.
7. How would you explain the key message of this story to someone else?

#### PRAY

#### NOTES FOR LEADERS

When a story in the Bible is unusual, we might be tempted to ignore it and move on - but it still has something to say to us, even if we have to work a bit harder to figure it out.

The demons and pigs might easily be something of a distraction; the story is still about Jesus and how people (the demons, then the townspeople), perceive Him.