



**Grain** “Your playing small serves no one.”

—Marianne Williamson

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

### Field

“33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. 34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 ‘Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.’ So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.”

Luke 8:26-29

### Thoughts

In one of Garrison Keillor’s radio programs about a fictional town in Minnesota, he told a story about how disturbed people were when “the town drunk” sobered up. Some in the small community feared now that they couldn’t shake their heads at the man who used to publicly stagger through life, they would have to start looking more closely at one another. It is true that we aren’t always on board with shifts in power that move an individual or groups of people into our view as being more than caricatures. We can even resist positive change in ourselves, anxious about losing the familiar, maybe even a social life via an addiction, a bias, or a relationship that has been in the extremely unhealthy zone for a while. A significant question arises. Is it enough to be whole? When by grace it is, we are not playing small.

The reaction people had to Jesus casting out the demons that had for years been dividing and torturing a man was intriguing. The community wanted Jesus and his disruptive power gone. It was as though they were saying, “Who is this teacher to rock our order of life? Sure, it was too bad that someone among us had suffered so much, but we were used to him that way.” How did that man feel when the one who had healed him was not being celebrated, but getting booted out of town? “Hey is there an extra seat in your boat? I’m out of here.” Jesus told him to stay. What would the result of that be? At least with the legion of demons he had company. Would he discover community, or experience another kind of isolation or persecution? We don’t know. Whatever he would find or hoped for but not have fulfilled in his new life, maybe it was enough to be whole. It was enough to in his brokenness find unexpected grace, in his own temptations to small thinking experience forgiveness, and to want the same for others whether they were well connected or set apart. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy