



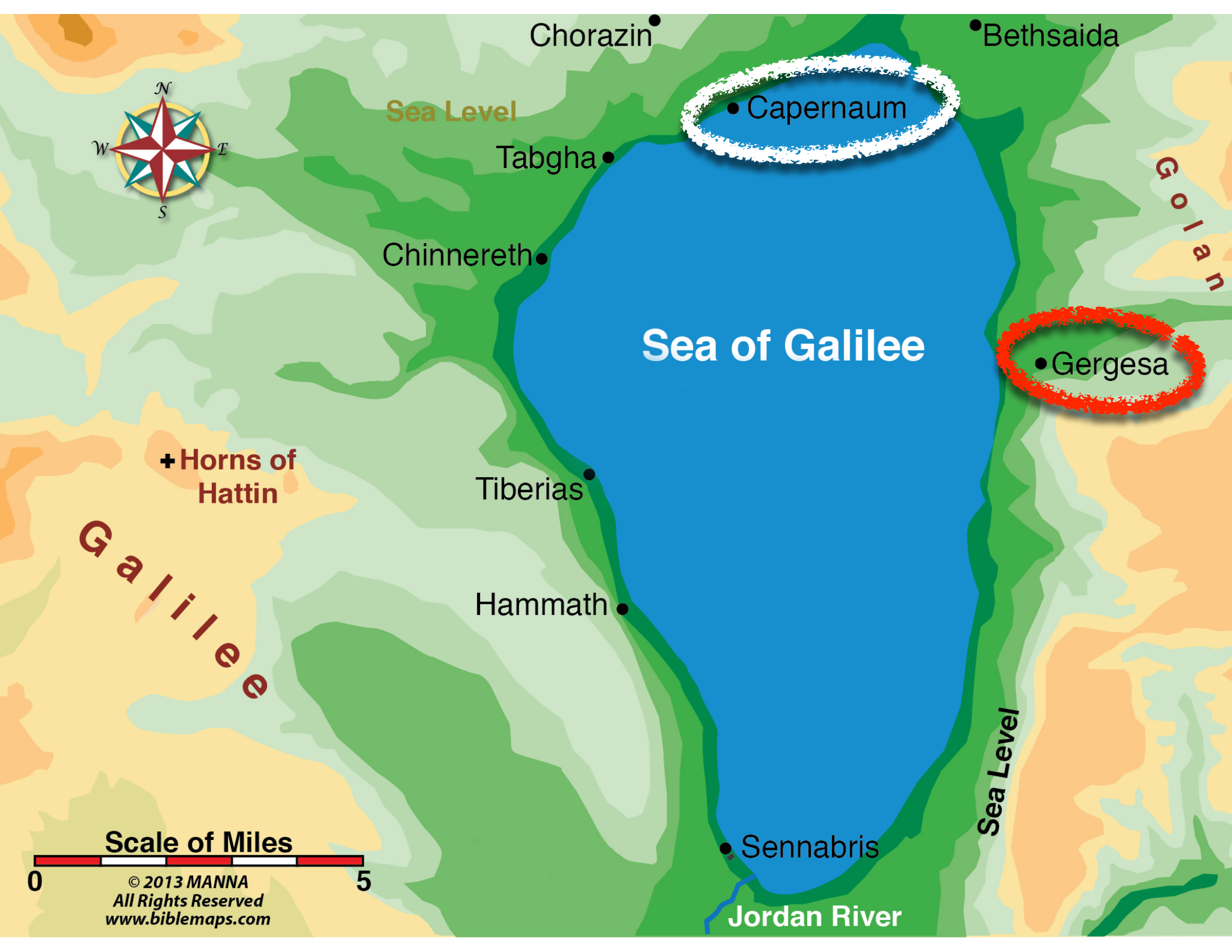
DEBATING WITH *Jesus*

Be careful who you argue with!

Mark 5:1-20

New International Version

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.



Chorazin

Bethsaida

Sea Level

Capernaum

Tabgha

Chinnereth

Sea of Galilee

Gergesa

+ Horns of Hattin

Tiberias

Hammath

Sennabris

Sea Level

Jordan River

Scale of Miles



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Mark 5:1-20

New International Version

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain.

Mark 5:1-20

New International Version

⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

Mark 5:1-20

New International Version

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.

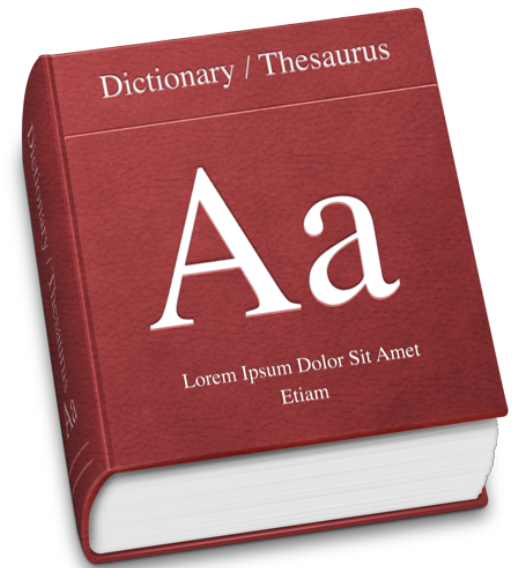
⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me,

John 10:10 “The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy;
I have come that they may have
life, and have it to the full.”



Greek: ἀπόλλυμι

“destroy”



Definition:

“to destroy, to put out of the way entirely. Abolish or render useless”

Mark 5:1-20

New International Version

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.

⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”

Mark 5:1-20

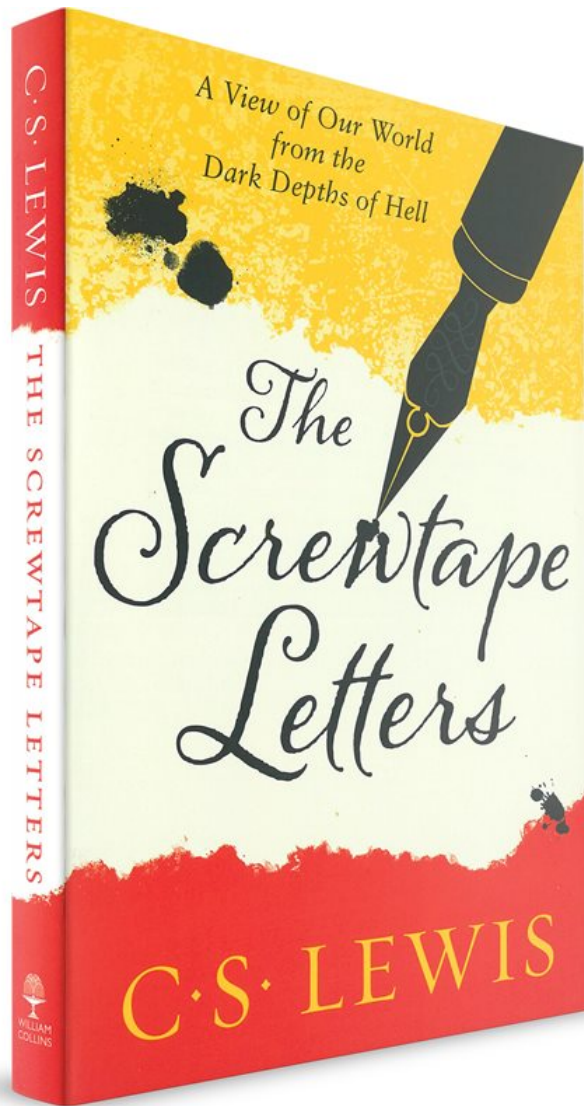
New International Version

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. ¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.”

2 Corinthians 11:14

**“...for Satan himself
masquerades as an
angel of light.”**





A collection of letters from a senior demon, Screwtape, to a novice demon, Wormwood.

Wormwood's patient becomes a Christian after the first letter. And so Screwtape concerns himself with advice about unraveling the faith of this new convert. Various letters explore the use of subtle distractions rather than frontal attacks. Playing on subtle annoyances is far better than tempting to spectacular sin.

Mark 5:1-20

New International Version

¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. ¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.

Mark 5:1-20

New International Version

¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man- and told about the pigs as well.

Mark 5:1-20

New International Version

¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him.

Mark 5:1-20

New International Version

¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

1. Rearranging life can be fun!

(As long as we are in charge of the adjustments).

The townspeople can see that Jesus has the power to change life as they know it. They, like us, are not eager to let someone else determine what those changes are going to be! You can't keep Jesus around as a genie in a bottle and call on him when it is convenient. He is The King and either He reigns or you reject him.

It is a big moment in your life
when you hand someone else the
keys, when you trade seats in the
car, because up until now, I've
been driving. I choose the
destination. I choose the
route.



I choose the speed. But if we are to change seats, if you're going to drive, ***I have to trust you because it's all about control.*** Really, whoever is this seat is the person in control.



I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: “I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. **A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher.** He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice.



C.S. Lewis

Mere Christianity, pg. 54–56

Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher.



C.S. Lewis

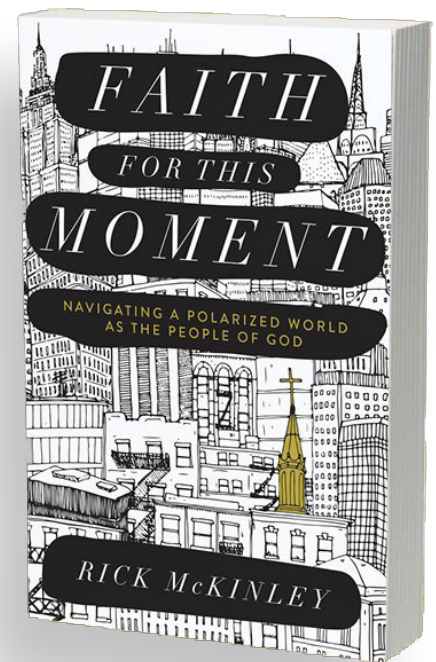
Mere Christianity, pg. 54–56

2. You can know it all but still get it all wrong.

The demons have a TON of correct information, but they are still committed to opposing God at every turn. The healed man only knows that Jesus has saved him. Equipped with just that reality, he is ready to follow wherever Jesus directs!

In America, we assume that our primary issue, when it come to faith or any other topic, is that we need more information to understand how to do the thing we want to do. This is true from weight loss to worship. We assume that we lack information and believe that if we only had the right information, then we would naturally do the thing we want to do. What we really lack is not information but the appropriate desires that move us toward the right things. The only person who can change the desires deep within us is Jesus.

Faith for this Moment, By Rick McKinley pg 87



communion

