Trial of the Demon Possessed Man

A Play By: Boyd Poole (11/12)

**Players:

Prosecutor	Cleveland Jones
Defense Counsel	Kendall Harris
Court Officer	Thomas Brown
Judge	Donald Jackson
Defendant	Vernon Bell
Introduction	Michael Jackson
Herdsman1	Reginald Montgomery
Herdsman2	Charles Bell
Simon Peter	Franklin McIntosh
James	James Pickett
John	James Stemley
Matthew	James Ellerbee
Phillip	Sam Wright
Thomas	C. Herbert Flowers
Thaddeus	Curtis Bell
Bartholomew	Howard Branch
Judas	Andrew Kamara

Sign Man — Junius Southall

Demon Dancer — Charles Jones

Waltzing Couples

Sam Wright & (to be named later)
Schley Owens & (to be named later)

Quartet — In The Still of the Night

James Ellerbee
Charles Jones
Jim Pickett
John Grantham

Singers

Number 1	Aaron Ware	Sitting On the Dock
Number 2	James Ellerbee	Wonderful Wonderful
Number 3	Bill Porter	I' ve Been Loving You Too Long
Number 4	Stephen Gibson	I Believe
Number 5	John Grantham	Smoke Gets In Your Eyes
Number 6	Stephen Gibson	Old Man River
Number 7	Angelo Brown	In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning
Number 8	Lynn Pittmon	You Don't Know Me
Number 9	Curtis Bell	My Prayer
Number 10	Aaron Ware	On The Street Where You Live
Number 11	Alvin Smith	Misty

Number 12	Franklin McIntosh	Stardust
Number 13	Alvin Smith	Some Enchanted Evening
Number 14	William Porter	What A Wonderful World
Number 15	Angelo Brown	Never Walk Alone

INTRODUCTION:

The Gospel, according to St. Mark, Chapter 5, versus 1 thru 20 it happened thusly:

> So, they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the land of Gerasenes. Just as Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit, ran out from the cemetery to meet him. The man lived among the tombs and could not be restrained, even with chains.
>
> When Jesus was some distance away, the man saw him. He ran to meet Jesus and fell down before him. He gave a terrible scream, shrieking, "Why are you bothering me Jesus, Son of the Most High God? For God's sake, don't torture me!" For Jesus had already said to the spirit, "Come out of the man, you evil spirit."
>
> Then Jesus asked, "What is your name?" And the spirit replied, "Legion, because there are many of us inside this man. Then the spirit begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. Jesus gave them permission. So the evil spirits came out to the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of two thousand pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake where they drowned. The demon possessed man was now fully clothed and perfectly sane.
>
> Now that is the way St. Mark saw it. And this the way our play-write saw it.

Enter Sign Man

Sign Man: FIRST CURTAIN * SHOW TIME

STOP, LIGHTS
ENTER QUARTET (Background singers enter, singing followed by lead singer)

Quartet: (In the Still of the Night)

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT QUARTET
ENTER PROSECUTOR, DEFENSE COUNSELOR, AND COURT OFFICER

On stage are a table and a chair. Standing by the table is the Court Officer. In a chair to the left is the Prosecuting Attorney and in a chair to the right of the table is the Defense Attorney. The Court officer is first to speak.

Court Officer: All rise!

Both attorneys stand. Actors seated on pews by the organ also stand

Court Officer: Hear, ye, hear, ye, hear ye; The Court of the Providence of Gerasenes is now in session. Judge Matthew Iverson presiding.

Enter Judge from stage right. He picks up a small hammer and raps on the table as he sits**.**

Judge: Please be seated.

All sit except the Court Officer.

Court Officer: The Enclave of Gerasenes, in the Providence of the Great Caesar Pontius Pilot, versus Wild-Man, the Man Possessed of Demons, also known as Legion, who was aided and abetted by the man called "Jesus" and the crew members.

The Providence accuses these men of piracy, blasphemy, theft, attempted grave robbery, practicing forbidden black magic, attempting to play a religious hoax on the entire Providence and shameful behavior.

The Court Officer Exits.

Judge: Thank you. Is the prosecution in court and prepared to present its Case?

Prosecutor: Prosecution is ready, your honor.

Judge: And the defense?

Defense Council: The defense is ready, your honor.

There is a disturbance in the courtroom.

Judge: The court will be in order, please. You've heard the charges, how do you plead?

Defense Council: The defense pleads not guilty, your honor.

Judge: The prosecution may give opening statements.

The prosecutor rises slowly and looks all around the room. He has papers I his hand but they are rolled up in his right had and he is tapping the palm of his left hand with the rolled up papers. He looks at the judge and the defense attorney and finally he walks toward the jury. He speaks in a quiet tone of voice.

Prosecutor: Ladies and gentlemen, these are vile people! They are people who disregard the laws of God as well as the laws of man. They are detestable by nature and heinous in character, bad, bad, bad, vile people.

Defense Counsel: Objection! May I suggest to my learned adversary to direct his attention to the facts of this case?

Prosecutor: Objection? Your honor, would you advise my colleague that he can=t object during my opening statement. And, Counselor, you know that you really do not want to hear the facts of this case.

The judge hits his gavel on the desk.

Prosecutor: I apologize to the court and to the learned counsel. And, heeding the advise of the defense, I direct your attention to the hideous, immoral, and unholy crimes of this defendant and his co-conspirators.

The prosecution will prove, through the concrete evidence gathered in this case, by eye witness testimony and even by the words of this defendant and his unholy alliance, that they are guilty, guilty, guilty. They are guilty beyond any reasonable doubt of outrageous behavior and morbid criminal acts.

The evidence will show that on the mist veiled evening of Wednesday, October 23, this year, in the reign of Pontius Pilot and as the sun was in it final perch on the horizon, and as shadows had become their ally, these men of opportunity stealthily moved their craft to the shore of a private reservation.

And what was their purpose there, your honor? That is the big question. To what purpose would men visit such a strange and eerie place; and just as night begins to creep across the ghastly caves of the dead?

STOP, LIGHTS

EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER 1

Singer 1 Sitting On the Dock of the Bay

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT SINGER 1
ENTER PLAYERS

Why were they there?
Listen to me and I will tell you. There can be but one logical purpose and that single logical purpose was to disturb the resting places of those unfortunates buried there and to scavenge their resting places for profit. Detestable, detestable, detestable and grievous.

After all, this is a grave -yard; a cemetery, a final resting place, if you will. What manner of men, indeed! Listen and it becomes obvious, as plain as your hand before your face. They had a plan, and what a gruesome plan it was. But! But! As with all devious plans, the unexpected betrayed them.

That's right! You see, they had not expected to find these shepherds in the area. The great Pilot had only recently opened these fields for grazing. That=s what led to the downfall of their plan. Now they had to quickly revise their scheme.

So, they use this man here, the defendant and some kind of hocus pocus magic to create a diversion while they stole the lively-hood of these poor herdsmen.

They cannot explain their actions. They cannot hide their guilt. They cannot explain away the truth. They are as guilty as sin.

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER 2

Singer 2: (Wonderful Wonderful)

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT SINGER 2
ENTER PLAYERS

Prosecutor sits.
Defense Counsel stands.

Defense Counsel: May it please the court: The prosecutor, as usual, is very eloquent and persuasive in making a mounting out of a molehill. But, Your Honor, his evidence will fail him. The truth, which is our ultimate goal, will vindicate this man for he is guilty of no crime. He is, in fact, a victim. And listen! We are all here at fault because this man is our brother and he has suffered and we have not cared for him.

He is not a criminal; none of these men are criminals. This is a case of misinterpretation of evidence, poor communications, and a rush to judgment. These men are not guilty of any crimes simply because no crimes have been committed.

The prosecution decided early on that these men were guilty and has not properly investigated the case. The prosecution has a theory and he wants the court to buy into this theory. We believe that the court will not do that.

The prosecution has a responsibility to investigate the facts of the case and they have not done that. However, your honor, someone did investigate the strange events of the evening of October 23rd.

I have entered into evidence an article here from the St. Mark Journal. Now I realize that this is not one of the most celebrated Journals of our day; however, it does offer a more realistic explanation analysis of the facts than the prosecution has done.

Strangely enough, the Journal and the prosecution are somewhat in agreement. They both agree that Jesus and his disciples arrived, by boat, on the Gerasenes side of the lake. They both also agree that it was late in the evening and that it was foggy. The night was damp and still.

But Mark's article says, and I quote: Ajust as Jesus was climbing from the boat, a huge, hairy, wild-eyed, screaming beast of a man, came hurriedly toward Jesus.

Listen, because this is very significant point. You see, this peculiar fellow lived among the tombs and he was of peculiar character and very strong. He could not be restrained, even with chains. Whenever he was put into chains and shackles, as he often was, he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. I am talking about this man, the defendant. Now, this article says and I quote, No one was strong enough to control him.

Yes, that's what the article says. Yet, this strangely possessed man, even in his agitated state, recognized Jesus. And, listen, he recognized him from afar, on a foggy evening, as the sun was setting. He came to Jesus for help and he got it.

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER 3

Singer 3: (I've Been Loving You Too Long)

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT SINGER
ENTER PLAYERS

Defense Counselor: I am about finished, your honor. I just want the record to show that Jesus transformed this pitiful, evil infested man into a person at peace with himself. That is what we are talking about, your honor. We are talking about the power of God manifesting though Jesus. No crime; only glory. You see? No matter how difficult life becomes, there is hope if you only believe.

STOP, lights.
Exit players
Enter Singer 4

Singer 4: (I Believe)

PLAYERS WALK QUIETLY ON STAGE WITH CANDLES

Exit Singer 4
EXIT CANDLE PEOPLE
STOP, LIGHTS
Enter Players

Defense Counselor: Under the circumstance, your honor, I make a motion to dismiss this case.

Judge: Counselor, your motion is denied.
The prosecution can call its first Witness.

Prosecutor: Thank you, your honor. Call Herdsman1.

Court Officer: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Herdsman1: I do.

Prosecutor: Sir, what is your name and what do you do for a living?

Herdsman1: Yes, sir. I am Ahaz Milan and I am a swine herder.

Prosecutor: A swine herder, sir? You mean that you earn your living shepherding hogs?

Herdsman1: Yes. That is as it is.

Prosecutor: And can you tell the court where you were and what you were doing on the evening of October 23rd?

Herdsman1: I was tending my animals in the fields of Gerasenes.

Prosecutor: Can you tell the court what you saw on that Wednesday evening?

Herdsman1: Well, sir, it was quite strange and I am not certain that I really saw what I am about to tell you. It was most like I was dreaming while still awake. As memory serves, I was tending my herd, there on the hillside, when I saw this boat sort of limp ashore out of a mist. It was like a ghost ship.

There seemed a quietness about it. And I saw some men get out of the boat and sort of mill around. Then I saw the wildman going toward the boat in a great rush. Three or maybe more of the men hurried back into the boat out of fear, pulling on one another. Two others ducked behind the tall man who stood fast.

I just knew that they were in big trouble because wild-man was a beast of destruction. I feared mightily for their safety. However, when he neared the tall man he just froze in his tracks. He fell into

some kind of trance and the tall man was pointing his finger at Wildman in anger. And, and well, that's when it happened.

Prosecutor: Sir, why are you saying all of these foolish things? Have you come loose from your senses?

Defense Counsel: I object, your honor. The prosecution is battering its won witness.

Judge: I am going to sustain the objection although I don=t have the slightest idea of what is going on here. I do, however, want to hear what further this witness has to say.

Prosecutor: Okay, Mr. Ahaz, what other foolishness do you have for us?

Herdsman1: What? Am I to speak now?

Prosecutor: Yes. I apologize for my unfortunate choice of words. Please go on, sir. What happened then?

Herdsman1: I would really rather not, judge.

Judge: It's all right, Mr. Ahaz, please go ahead. What happened?

Herdsman1 Well, I just don't know. Stuff or things started jumping out of wildman all over the place. I didn't know what was going on. I was frightened and confused. As I say, it was getting dark and there was a low hinging mist but, it was all there before me

STOP, LIGHTS
ENTER SINGER 5
EXIT PLAYERS

Singer 5: (Smoke Gets In Your Eyes)

STOP
EXIT SINGER 5
ENTER PLAYERS

Prosecutor: And then what happened?

Herdsman1: I may have gone into a faint or something, I don't know. Then I

guess they stole my herd and abducted Wildman. They left this man there chanting glory, glory and alleluia or something like that. He just kept chanting and saying that he was demon free. It was all kind of scary. And that's all I know.

Prosecutor: Your Witness.

Defense Counsel: Thank you. Now, let me get this clear in my mind. Sir, is it your testimony that you actually saw some things coming out of this man?

Herdsman1: This man? I don't know. I surely did see something coming out of somebody.

Defense Counsel: What? Well, what was it?

Herdsman1: I don't rightly know, sir.

Defense Counselor: From where did they come? I mean from his mouth or body? Where?

Herdsman1: I just don't know where they were coming from. They were just jumping out of him. Maybe, from his body; I don't know. Maybe from his mouth and ears, I could not tell. I just don't know.

Defense Counsel: Well, what did they look like and where did they go?

Herdsman1: What did they look like! I don't know. Things.... things just jumping out of him; some laughing real crazy like, some screaming and some crying and moving erratically in the air. There were so many. I don't know where they went. Obviously, I was in some kind of spell.

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SIGN MAN

Sign Man: **THE DEMON DANCER IS HERE**

PLAY INTRO
ENTER DEMON DANCER

Demon Dancer: Dance

STOP, LIGHTS

EXIT DANCERS
STOP
LIGHTS
ENTER SIGN MAN

Sign Man: **WATCH OUT!**
THE DEMONS ARE COMING
STOP LIGHTS
PLAY DEMONS DANCE MUSIC

All Players (Dance Through)

ENTER PLAYERS
LIGHTS

Defense Counsel: Now, sir! When the tall man was pointing his finger, how do you know it was in anger?

Herdsman1: Well, it was the way he was doing it; sort of jabbing like, you know.

Defense Counsel: Okay then. Was he pointing at the defendant or to those things you saw coming out of the defendant?

Prosecutor: I object, your honor. Where is this foolishness headed?

Defense Counselor: No further questions.

Prosecutor: I would like to call Herdsman2 to the stand.

Judge: Herdsman2, please come forward.

Court Officer: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Herdsman2: I do.

Prosecutor: Could we have your version of what took place that evening?

Herdsman2: I was pretty scared. I can tell you that. There was a lot of strange stuff going on. I guess it was pretty much like my fellow shepherd said. I was closer to the boat as I had just herded some swine from the shallow water where they had been drinking.

There had been a storm earlier and there remained a mist over the

water. It was like a ghost ship coming to shore..

Judge: Well, the hour is late. So, before you present your defense, we will break for lunch. Court stands adjourned until half past the hour.

Judge pounds gavel.

Court Officer: All rise.

Judge exits; all exit.

STOP
LIGHTS
EXIT JUDGE
ENTER SINGER 6

Singer 6 Old Man River

Stop
Lights
Exit singer 6

ENTER SIGN MAN
INTERMISSION 5 MINUTES

- **INTERMISSION**

ACT II

LIGHTS
ENTER SIGN MAN

Sign Man **SECOND CURTIN**
PLEASE BE SEATED

LIGHTS
I saw the men get out of the boat and Wildman screaming and jumping and coming toward the men. Some ran and some ducked for cover, but the tall man just stood there. I thought wild man would bash him sure.

But then something strange happened. The tall man spoke not to Wildman but to something inside of him. And, what=s more; whatever was inside him, spoke back. Then, as my friend said, things started coming out of Wildman.

I was very frightened and tried to run up a steep embankment. I lost my balance and fell into the mud

where the pigs had been. I stayed there covering my eyes with my hands.

When I regain my senses, my herd was gone, Wildman was gone and the men and the boat were gone. Legion, the defendant, there, was babbling about a miracle or something. It was quite troubling. It was getting dark but everything was eerily clear.

STOP
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER 7

Singer 7 **(In The Wee Small Hours of the Morning)**

STOP
EXIT SINGER 7
ENTER PLAYERS

.

Prosecutor: Your witness.

Defense Counsel: No questions.

Prosecutor: Your Honor, I Call the defendant to the stand.

Judge: Does the defense have any objection?

Defense Counselor: No, Your honor.

Judge: The defendant will step forwarded.

Court Officer: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Defendant: I do. Thank you Jesus.

Prosecutor: Sir, who are you and what can you tell us of the events of that evening?

Defendant: Who I am is of little importance. It is what I was and what I am now that matters. Glory to God on high! I cannot tell you that I saw all that happened; but I can tell you that I was in the darkest of pits. Now the clouds are gone and I am free.

Prosecutor: Sir, do you refuse to give the court your name?

Defendant: That is not the case, sir. It=s just that I have not heard my name in some many years that I just cannot recall what it is.

Prosecutor: What?

Defendant: You see, I haven=t been me for so many years.

Prosecutor: Right! So, who have you been?

Defendant: Well, I have been a lot of ugly things and I have carried a heavy burden. I have been what I pray you never shall be. Anger, hate, and envy I have been. I have been disease, evil, alcohol drugs, and sin.

These things I have been. And I have been un-sharing, discontented, immoral, indecent, mean of spirit, untrustworthy, undependable, unbelieving, hurt and pained.

I have been lost in thousands of identities that I cannot even begin to explain. I have been all of those things that tend to separate one from society and from God. I was all of that so long that I have forgotten who I am.

STOP, LIGHTS
ENTER SINGER 8

Singer 8: (You Don't Know Me)

STOP
EXIT SINGER 8

Prosecutor: Right! So Legion is not your name? But you don=t know what your name is, right? Sir, are you a drinking man?

Defense Counsel: Your Honor, is the prosecutor badgering his own witness?

Prosecutor: Okay, I have one further question. Do you really believe that Jesus spoke to someone or something inside of you? And wait a minute, and did whatever it was answer him?

Defendant: That is as it was.

Prosecutor: The prosecution rests its case, your honor.

Judge: Thank you counselor. Is the defense ready?

Defense Counsel: Ready, your honor.

Judge: The defense can call its first witness.

Defense Counsel: Thank you, your honor. I call Simon, now known as Peter.

Court Officer: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God.

Peter: I do.

Defense Counsel: Sir, were you on the boat that is called into question in this case.

Peter: Yes, Sir; I was.

Defense Counsel: How does it happen that your boat landed in this eerie place?

Peter: I am not certain. It wasn't our destination. I am sure that I did not want to be there. You see, there was this violent storm and our craft was tossed dangerously on the agitated sea. I remember stretching my hands toward the heavens.

STOP
LIGHTS
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER 9

Singer 9: (My Prayer)

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT SINGER 9
ENTER PLAYERS

Peter: The Master was asleep and I feared the worst. The master chastised me for having little faith but I have a feeling that this was his destination. I cannot further explain it.

Defense Counselor: Your witness.

Prosecutor: Sir, are you by chance suggesting divine providence?

Your honor, can he do that?

Judge: Well, he was asked to give his version.

Prosecutor: Yes but... Well, no further questions.

Defense Counsel: Call James, son of Zebedee.

Judge: Please come forward.

Court Officer: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

James: I do.

Defense Counsel: You were among of the people on that boat?

James: Yes, sir.

Defense Counsel: Did you hear Jesus, the person you call Master, speak to a being inside the defendant?

James: Yes, sir. I did.

Defense Counsel: Didn't you think that this was a little unusual?

James: Well, to tell you the truth, it was one of the most frightening experiences of my life. And, it was not the first time I'd seen it. On the road to Zebedee we came upon a man possessed by a demon and the Master called it out of the man.

It literally caused hairs to stand up all over my body. I have seen many things beyond my comprehension since I pledged to follow the Master. I know that this wretch was seeking peace of mind and sought out the Master.

Defense Counsel: Your witness.

Prosecutor: Sir, is your Amaster≅ some kind of magician? How did he do all that?

James: He has, at his fingertips, the power of God.

Prosecutor: Really! You say that this man has the power of God? Right? Judge, isn't that a confession of guilt?

Judge: That is an in appropriate question, counselor.

Prosecutor: Appropriate? That's appropriate? Judge I…Okay. No further question of the witness.

Defense Counsel: Call John, son of Zebedee.

Judge: John, son of Zebedee will please take the stand.

Court Officer: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

John: I do. My sentiments are the same as my brothers. The Master has done great things because God is in him and of him and is him. He chased an army of devils from this wretched man. Some of the demons pleaded their case.

Prosecutor: *I'm sorry? I me*an, Sir, what do you mean by that?

John: I mean, those devils were really begging.

Prosecutor: Yes. And this is all a bunch of nonsense. No further questions.

Defense Counsel: Call Thaddeus.

Court Officer: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Thaddeus: I do; as best I can. This man was possessed by many demons; thousands of them. And this man recognized the Master, even from a distance and even in the twilight with a mist moving in from the lake.

He asked the master to torment no him further. Laden with burdens, he sought relief. And he knew where to find it.
We could all learn from this man. Many of us are tormented; we carry too many burdens and needlessly suffer grief.

The master chased the demons from his body because this man wanted it to be done and because he brought his burdens to the Lord. The demons were in awe of the master and pleaded for mercy. I am yet a sinful man and did not understand why the master would consider mercy for evil things that had so tortured this man. I still do not know. But this he did.

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER 9

Singer 9: (On the Street Where You Live)

EXIT SINGER 9
ENTER PLAYERS
STOP, LIGHTS

The prosecutor comes quickly to his feet and points his finger but makes no comment. He sits and Thomas stands.

Thomas: I too was there. We were not adventurers, nor hunters, or seekers of profit. Certainly there was no desire to disturb the dead. A sudden storm of great velocity had us off course and our boat in need of repair.

We drifted ashore to fix the boat. We were not even aware that we had landed on the isle of the dead.

Now I did see things that I did not understand; but I have been seeing lots of things that befuddled me since joining the Master. There was no crime; no abduction and no stealing of anything.

Philip: I am still ashamed. I too sought refuse in the boat as this crazed person spun and leaped with a mad dog temper in my direction.

However, soon I regained the faith and hurried back to the side of the Master. But in those fleeting seconds much happed that I did not see.

I did see this man, clean of his affliction, on his knees speaking of great things the Master had done.

I also saw those animals acting most strange; flipping and jumping about and screaming mightily. All at once and with great haste, they rushed into the lake and disappeared.

The prosecutor, who had long since turned his back on the proceeding, raised both hand as he came to his feet.

Prosecutor: You know, this is pretty weird stuff. Do you hear what you are saying? Do you expect the court to entertain this fantasy? Okay, Sir, just tell me this, how do you account for the fact that these men have lost a herd of 2000 pigs and Wildman is missing?

By the way, why would your kindly Master play such a dirty trick on the pigs? He ran them crazy, right? He drowned them or something, right? Where are the pigs?

Thomas: I doubt that anybody knows what happened to the pigs. I can't tell you. I was there but I don't really understand what happened to the herd. I was frightened and went to the boat for a very short period, when I returned the herd was rushing toward me. Their eyes were as red as fire and their expressions were foolish. I tried to turn them; they had no fear of me.

Matthew: I am Matthew. May I tell you why the demons were cast into the herd?

Prosecutor: No! Who cares? I'm sorry, sir, by all means; everyone else is answering questions not put to them, why not you? Go ahead!

Matthew: The Master did it to protect this man.

Prosecutor: All right, sir, tell us how your master helped the defendant by whatever he did with those pigs?

Matthew: The master had to have some place to put the demons. He told us that when an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert seeking rest but finding none it returns to the person it came from.

Prosecutor: You don't say!

Matthew: What's more, it finds seven other spirits more evil than itself and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before.

Prosecutor: Judge, are you hearing this?

Judas: And I am Judas and I was not afraid and I saw all that happened. I can tell you that the man called Wildman and the man called Legion are one and the same. I can tell you that the Master transformed this man from the ridiculous to the incredible.

When the Master spoke to the demon inside this man, the demon

responded and said, “We are called Legion because there are so many of us.” You see? Legion is the name for the evil things that were inside this man.

And, yes, I saw these things come out of this man and float about in the air and descend into the herd of pigs.

The pigs became very agitated and ran into the lake and disappeared into the deep water. Suddenly this man was at peace and fully clothed. This I saw. This is the way it was.

Bartholomew: I am called Bartholomew. To this I also bare witness. The Master is great. I have seen him heal the sick, cure the lame and bring sight to the blind. Those who seek out the master enjoy his mercy.

Prosecutor: What has that to do with anything? This is plain nonsense. And I object to all of it. It should be stricken from the record. These men are not even sworn in. This fantasy just doesn’t wash. Even if such voodoo were possible, it would be illegal. And, no matter how they frame it, it cannot be an act of compassion.

What of the poor herdsmen and the many people who depend of them for their food? What about them? Their livelihood gone; wiped from the face of the earth. Voo dooed or something; frightened out of their wits. Is your master without concern for them? What are they to do?

Peter: If you please, I will be honored to answer that question.

Prosecutor: Oh, boy! Here we go again. Your honor, is this a court of or a “Can you top this show?”

Judge: Careful, Counselor, One more crack like that and you can expect contempt charges. All right clerk, swear in the witness.

Court Officer: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Peter: I do.

Defense Counsel: Peter, you were about to answer a question posed by the prosecution, would you care to continue?

Peter: Yes, sir; I am very happy to answer the question. The herdsmen have suffered no loss. As we speak, a herd of swine is grazing in

the abundant grasses on the lea where the herdsmen left them. Praise the Lord.

Prosecutor: Objection, Your Honor; there is no evidence of this.

Judge: I'll allow the answer pending further evidence.

Peter: And if the herdsmen maintain just the smallest amount of faith, their herd will double in number by the time they reach the fields. They will be richer and wiser and the master will give them peace of mind.

I know that it is a little murky and confusing but the Master is preparing for a long journey to somewhere far beyond the stars to prepare a better place for us; but his love will remain to protect and guide us until he returns.

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER 11

Singer 11: (Misty)

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT SINGER 11
ENTER PLAYERS

Defense Counsel: Your Honor, the defense rests.

Judge: Very well. I will now hear closing arguments. The prosecution will go first.

Prosecutor: Thank you, your honor. I must say that this all confounds me. The defense has, in fact, confessed to every crime of which they have been accused and even more.

They admit entering the land of Gerasenes in the late of evening. They own up to practicing some kind of black magic. So, why are we listening to stuff?

STOP. LIGHTS
ENTER SINGER 12
EXIT PLAYERS

Singer 12 **(Stardust)**

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT SINGER 12
ENTER PLAYERS

How about all those groovy demon things leaping from the defendant, having some kind of mid air party? And try to figure out how they got into those pigs.

They say that they didn't steal the pigs. So, what happened to them? Judas says that they ran the pigs crazy. If they did that, they had no right to do it.

I don=t even understand what they are talking about and I don=t believe that they do. Now, that gentleman over there, Peter, I believe, says that the herd is still there and may have doubled in size. Your honor, I've been there and I have looked.

They were not there. I saw some floating in the lake; but there were no pigs in the pasture. If there is a herd there now, it is another heard and some kind of crime has probably been committed.

So, what were those men doing there? What was all that stuff floating out of the defendant? Did the herd go mad, as one has testified? Now, I've heard of mad dogs and mad cows. But crazy pigs?

And what about the defendant being a lot of other people and other things? He doesn't even know who he is? And, why are they calling this guy Master? That's some kind of crime.

They want you to believe that they are all raving lunatics. They did a good job; but, it's a ploy and nothing more. They want to confuse the court because they have no defense. They want your attention on crazy pigs and not on them.

Do not be swayed by the poppycock and fantasy of their testimony. They have committed crimes against the common wealth and sedition and blasphemed against God. They are guilty, guilty,

guilty, and crazy to boot.

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER 13
ENTER COUPLES (Stand in pose/dance at interlude)

Singer 13: (Some Enchanted Evening)

EXIT CROWD
EXIT SINGER 13

ENTER PLAYERS
STOP, LIGHTS

Judge: Okay, Counsel for the defense may begin.

Defense Counsel: Your Honor, courtroom personnel and people of the commonwealth; listen with both ears and your heart and your mind. Hear thee and feel thee the presence of the Lord and have a little faith. This is a win, win situation. There is a large heard of pigs currently grazing in the grass field of Gerasenes.

The herdsmen have suffered no loss. And with a little bit of faith, their fortunes will double. And these Christian men, their craft pushed to the shore of Gerasenes by the hand of God, were instrumental in freeing the soul of this poor wretch. Alleluia and praise to the Lord. We are about to see a brand new and beautiful world.

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER 14

Singer 14: (What A Wonderful World)

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT SINGER 14
ENTER PLAYERS

Defense Counselor: This is one of the greatest stories ever told. Not because a boat was thrown off course in a storm, not because they arrived at the strange and eerie place at an eerie time of day, not because of the herd of swine ran into the lake, and not a demon possessed man sought out Jesus, or that the demons inside of the man were in awe

of Jesus or even because Jesus chased the demons from this mans body.

No sir. They are all great little stories that test our faith.
But the greatest story is the message that God gives us
through all of these little stories.

And this is a message of hope that gives us all reason to believe that, through all of the storms of life, you are never alone:

STOP, LIGHTS
EXIT PLAYERS
ENTER SINGER

Singer 15: (You'll Never Walk Alone)

LIGHTS
PLAYER INTRODUCTION
RECONGINION OF GUEST
REMARKS BY PASTOR

End