

Acts 19:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Analysis

'The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.' This violent response demonstrated the danger of spiritual warfare without spiritual authority. Their humiliation - fleeing naked and wounded - publicly exposed their powerlessness. Attempting spiritual ministry without Christ's authority invites disaster.

Historical Context

This incident became widely known in Ephesus (Acts 19:17), serving as warning against magical manipulation and encouraging genuine faith in Christ. The physical beating illustrated spiritual defeat.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What dangers face those who attempt spiritual ministry without Christ's authority?
2. How does this incident warn against treating Christianity as magic or technique?
3. What does genuine spiritual authority require?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐφαλλόμενος ἐπ' αὐτῶν, ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐν ᾧ ἦν
And leaped on them the man in whom was
G2532 G2177 G1909 G846 G3588 G444 G1722 G3739 G2258

τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ πονηρὸν καὶ κατακυριεύσας αὐτῶν,
spirit the evil And overcame them
G3588 G4151 G3588 G4190 G2532 G2634 G846

ἵσχυσεν κατ' αὐτῶν, ὥστε γυμνοὺς καὶ
and prevailed against them so naked And
G2480 G2596 G846 G5620 G1131 G2532

τετραυματισμένους ἐκφυγεῖν ἐκ τοῦ οἴκου ἐκείνου
wounded that they fled out of house that
G5135 G1628 G1537 G3588 G3624 G1565

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:29 (Spirit): (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)
