

Luke 4:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,

Analysis

And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice. Luke's first Capernaum miracle contrasts sharply with Nazareth's rejection. The phrase *pneuma daimoniou akathartou* (πνεῦμα δαιμονίου ἀκαθάρτου, spirit of an unclean demon) describes demonic possession. The word *akathartos* (ἀκάθατος, unclean) emphasizes moral and ceremonial impurity—demons defile those they possess.

The demon *anekraxen phōnē megalē* (ἀνέκραξεν φωνῇ μεγάλῃ, cried out with a loud voice), responding violently to Jesus' presence. That this occurred *en tē synagōgē* (ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ, in the synagogue) is significant—demonic presence in God's house reveals Israel's spiritual condition. Religious activity doesn't guarantee spiritual purity. Jesus' arrival exposes hidden evil, forcing demons to manifest and be expelled.

Historical Context

First-century Judaism recognized demonic possession as distinct from physical or mental illness. Synagogues were centers of community life, not just worship—teaching, legal proceedings, and social gatherings occurred there. That a demon-possessed man regularly attended synagogue without previous disruption suggests demons remained hidden until confronted by Jesus' authority. The confrontation demonstrates that Jesus' presence forces spiritual reality into the open—neutrality

becomes impossible. His teaching and exorcisms worked together to establish God's kingdom.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does the demon-possessed man's presence in the synagogue teach about the difference between religious activity and spiritual reality?
2. How does Jesus' presence expose hidden evil and force spiritual realities into the open?
3. Why is it significant that demons manifest violently when confronted by Jesus' authority?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐν	τῇ	συναγωγῇ	ἦν	ἄνθρωπος	ἔχων	πνεῦμα
And	in	G3588	the synagogue	there was	a man	which had	a spirit
G2532	G1722		G4864	G2258	G444	G2192	G4151

δαιμονίου	ἀκαθάρτου	καὶ	ἀνέκραξεν	φωνῇ	μεγάλῃ
devil	of an unclean	And	cried out	voice	with a loud
G1140	G169	G2532	G349	G5456	G3173

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:23 (Spirit): And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,