

Luke 4:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

Analysis

Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

The demon's *ea, ti hēmin kai soi* (ἔα, τί ἡμῖν καὶ σοί, let us alone, what to us and to you) is a Semitic idiom meaning "What do we have in common?" or "Why interfere with us?" The plural "us" may indicate multiple demons or the demon speaking for all demonic forces.

The demon identifies Jesus as *Iēsou Nazarēne* (Ἰησοῦ Ναζαρηνέ, Jesus of Nazareth) and asks, *ēlthes apolesai hēmas* (ἦλθες ἀπολέσαι ἡμᾶς, have you come to destroy us?). The verb *apollymi* (ἀπόλλυμι, to destroy utterly) reveals demons' awareness that Jesus is their destroyer. The confession *ho hagios tou Theou* (ὁ ἅγιος τοῦ θεοῦ, the Holy One of God) is theologically accurate—demons recognize Jesus' divine identity even when humans don't. Yet this knowledge brings no salvation, only terror (James 2:19).

Historical Context

The title "Holy One of God" appears rarely in Scripture. In the Old Testament, Aaron is called holy (Psalm 106:16), and Israel corporately is God's holy people. Applied to Jesus, it identifies Him as uniquely set apart by God for divine purpose—the Messiah. Demons possess supernatural knowledge of spiritual realities invisible to humans. Their recognition of Jesus' identity demonstrates the spiritual

battle underlying Jesus' ministry. His coming signals demons' ultimate doom, explaining their desperate resistance. The exorcism is not mere healing but cosmic warfare—God's kingdom invading Satan's territory.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the demon's accurate theological knowledge about Jesus teach about the difference between intellectual knowledge and saving faith?
2. Why do demons recognize Jesus' identity and mission when most humans fail to do so?
3. How does the demon's question 'art thou come to destroy us?' reveal the ultimate purpose of Christ's incarnation?

Interlinear Text

λέγων, Saying G3004	Ἐὰν Let us alone G1436	τίς what G5101	ἡμῖν have we to do G2254	καὶ G2532	σοί with thee G4671	Ἰησοῦ thou Jesus G2424	
Ναζαρηνέ of Nazareth G3479	ἦλθες art thou come G2064	ἀπολέσαι to destroy G622	ἡμᾶς us G2248	οἶδά I know G1492	σε thee G4571	τίς what G5101	εἶ thou art G1488
ὁ G3588	ἅγιος the Holy One G40	τοῦ G3588	θεοῦ of God G2316				

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:24 (Holy): Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

Matthew 8:29 (References Jesus): And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

James 2:19 (References God): Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Revelation 3:7 (Holy): And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Acts 3:14 (Holy): But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

Luke 1:35 (Holy): And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 4:41 (References God): And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.