

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* (ἐα, 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 Ναζαρηνός, Jesus of Nazareth) and asks, *ēlthes apolesai hēmas* (ἢλθες 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,	Ἐα	τίς	ἡμῖν	καὶ	σοί	Ἰησοῦ	
Saying	Let us alone	what	have we to do	G2532	with thee	thou Jesus	
G3004	G1436	G5101	G2254		G4671	G2424	
Ναζαρηνέ	ῆλθες	ἀπολέσαι	ἡμᾶς	οἶδά	σε	τίς	εἰ
of Nazareth	art thou come	to destroy	us	I know	thee	what	thou art
G3479	G2064	G622	G2248	G1492	G4571	G5101	G1488
ὁ	ἄγιος	τοῦ	θεοῦ				
the Holy One		of God					
G3588		G3588	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.