

Luke 4:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

Analysis

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. Jesus' response is authoritative and brief. The verb epetimēsen (ἐπετίμησεν, rebuked) indicates stern command, the same word used for rebuking storms (8:24) and fever (4:39). Phimōthēti (φιμώθητι, be muzzled/silenced) is a strong imperative—literally "be muzzled" like a dangerous animal. Jesus refuses the demon's testimony despite its accuracy, maintaining control over how His identity is revealed.

And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. The demon's violent exit—rhipsan auton eis to meson (ῥίψαν αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ μέσον, throwing him into the midst)—demonstrates demonic malice and Jesus' restraining power. The phrase mēden blapsas auton (μηδὲν βλάψας αὐτόν, having hurt him not at all) shows Jesus' compassion and authority. Unlike typical exorcisms where demons harmed victims during expulsion, Jesus protected the man completely.

Historical Context

Ancient exorcism accounts (both Jewish and pagan) describe elaborate rituals, incantations using divine names, and often physical harm to the possessed person. Josephus describes exorcists using roots, rings, and lengthy formulas. Jesus' simple command contrasts starkly—He speaks with inherent authority, needing no

rituals or formulas. His refusal of demonic testimony maintains messianic secrecy until the appointed time. The demon's violent but ultimately harmless exit demonstrates Jesus' complete control—He both expels evil and protects the victim, showing both power and compassion.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus refuse the demon's accurate testimony about His identity?
2. What does Jesus' simple command (versus elaborate exorcism rituals) reveal about His inherent authority?
3. How does Jesus' protection of the man during the violent exorcism demonstrate both power over evil and compassion for victims?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐπετίμησεν αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων, Φιμώθητι καὶ
And rebuked him G3588 Jesus saying G3004 Hold thy peace And
G2532 G2008 G846 G2424 G3004 G5392 G2532

ἐξῆλθεν ἐξ αὐτόν καὶ ῥίψαν αὐτόν τὸ δαιμόνιον
come out of him And had thrown him G3588 when the devil
G1831 G1537 G846 G2532 G4496 G846 G3588 G1140

εἰς τὸ μέσον ἐξῆλθεν ἀπ' αὐτόν μηδὲν βλάψαν
in G3588 the midst come out of him not and hurt
G1519 G3319 G1831 G575 G846 G3367 G984

αὐτόν

him
G846

Additional Cross-References

Luke 4:41 (Evil): 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.

Luke 4:39 (Parallel theme): And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

Matthew 8:26 (Parallel theme): And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

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