

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* (ρίψαν 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** **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} ^{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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