

Luke 4:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. The phrase daimonia... kraugazonta kai legonta (δαιμόνια... κραυγάζοντα καὶ λέγοντα, demons crying out and saying) indicates multiple exorcisms with demons vocally confessing Jesus' identity. The title ho Christos ho huios tou Theou (ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, the Christ the Son of God) is theologically precise—demons recognize both Jesus' messianic office (Christ) and divine nature (Son of God).

And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ. Despite accurate testimony, Jesus epitimōn ouk eia auta lalein (ἐπιτιμῶν οὐκ εἴᾳ αὐτὰ λαλεῖν, rebuking did not permit them to speak). He maintained control over how and when His identity was revealed, refusing demonic testimony even when true. The reason: ēdeisan ton Christon auton einai (ῆδεισαν τὸν Χριστὸν αὐτὸν εἴναι, they knew him to be the Christ). Jesus wouldn't allow demons to reveal what disciples must discover through faith.

Historical Context

Messianic expectations in first-century Judaism were politically charged—most expected a military deliverer to overthrow Rome. Premature public identification as Messiah would trigger both false popular expectations and Roman/Jewish opposition before Jesus completed His teaching ministry. His "messianic secret"

strategy involved demonstrating messiahship through works while controlling public proclamation until the appointed time. Demons' knowledge contrasts with human ignorance—spiritual beings recognized what religious leaders missed. Yet mere knowledge without submission brings no salvation—demons believe and tremble (James 2:19) but remain condemned.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus refuse demonic testimony about His identity, even when theologically accurate?
2. What does demons' accurate knowledge without salvation teach about the difference between intellectual belief and saving faith?
3. How does Jesus' control over when and how His identity is revealed demonstrate His wisdom in dealing with mixed messianic expectations?

Interlinear Text

ἐξήρχετο δὲ καὶ δαιμόνια ἀπὸ πολλῶν κράζοντα καὶ
came And And devils out of many crying out And
G1831 G1161 G2532 G1140 G575 G4183 G2896 G2532
λέγοντα ὅτι Σὺ εἶ ὁ Χριστὸν ὁ νιὸς τοῦ θεοῦ
saying for Thou art Christ the Son of God
G3004 G3754 G4771 G1488 G5547 G3588 G5207 G3588 G2316
καὶ ἐπιτιμῶν οὐκ εἶα αὐτὸν λαλεῖν ὅτι ἤδεισαν
And he rebuking not them suffered that he to speak for they knew
G2532 G2008 G3756 G1439 G846 G2980 G3754 G1492
τὸν Χριστὸν αὐτὸν εἶναι
G3588 Christ that he was
G5547 G846 G1511

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:34 (Evil): And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

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

Mark 3:11 (References God): And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

Matthew 4:3 (References God): And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

John 20:31 (References Christ): But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.