

Luke 9:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

Analysis

And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father. The phrase **as he was yet a coming** (eti de proserchomenou autou, ἔτι δὲ προσερχομένου αὐτοῦ) indicates the demon attacked as the boy approached Jesus—a final violent assault. The verb errhēxen (ἔρρηξεν, "threw down" or "dashed down") and synesparaxen (συνεσπάραξεν, "tore" or "convulsed violently") describe the demon's fury. Satan rages most violently when deliverance is imminent—despairing malice.

Jesus' response was authoritative: epetimēsen (ἐπετίμησεν, "rebuked")—the same verb used to calm the storm (8:24), indicating sovereign command. He addressed **the unclean spirit** (tō pneumati tō akathartō, τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ)—morally impure, defiling. Jesus **healed the child** (iasato ton paida, ἰάσατο τὸν παῖδα)—addressing both demonic and physical damage—and **delivered him again to his father** (apedōken auton tō patri autou, ἀπέδωκεν αὐτὸν τῷ πατρὶ αὐτοῦ). The verb apedōken (gave back) echoes Elijah restoring the widow's son (1 Kings 17:23)—Jesus as greater than Elijah.

Historical Context

The demon's violent final attack as the boy approached Jesus reflects spiritual warfare reality—Satan opposes most fiercely when deliverance nears. Ancient

exorcisms often involved prolonged rituals, but Jesus' rebuke was immediate and complete. Mark's account adds that Jesus commanded, "Come out of him, and enter no more into him" (Mark 9:25)—permanent deliverance. The phrase "delivered him again to his father" emphasizes restoration—the boy was returned to family and community, whole and free. This foreshadows Christ's greater work—delivering captives from Satan's power and restoring them to the Father (Colossians 1:13, Luke 15:24). Early Christians facing demonic opposition took courage—Jesus' authority is absolute and final.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why does Satan often attack most violently when deliverance is nearest, and how should this prepare Christians for spiritual warfare?
2. What does Jesus' immediate, complete exorcism teach about His authority compared to elaborate human rituals and techniques?
3. How does Jesus 'delivering him again to his father' point to the gospel's ultimate purpose of reconciling us to God the Father?

Interlinear Text

ἔτι	δὲ	προσερχομένου	αὐτοῦ	ἔρῳηξεν	αὐτοῦ	τὸ		
yet	And	a coming	him	down	him	G3588		
G2089	G1161	G4334	G846	G4486	G846			
δαίμονιον	καὶ	συνεσπάραξεν·	ἐπετίμησεν	δὲ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς		
the devil	and	tare	rebuked	And	G3588	Jesus		
G1140	G2532	G4952	G2008	G1161		G2424		
τῷ	πνεύματι	τῷ	ἀκαθάρτῳ	καὶ	ιάσατο	τὸν	παῖδα	καὶ
G3588	spirit	G3588	the unclean	and	healed	G3588	the child	and
	G4151		G169	G2532	G2390		G3816	G2532
ἀπέδωκεν	αὐτοῦ	τῷ	πατρὶ	αὐτοῦ				
again	him	G3588	father	him				
G591	G846		G3962	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 7:15 (Parallel theme): And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.