

Mark 1:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

Analysis

In synagogue was man with unclean spirit who cried out. First exorcism in Mark demonstrates Jesus authority over spiritual realm. Unclean spirit demon possessing man rendering him ceremonially and morally defiled. The demon cried out recognizing Jesus threatened demonic kingdom. Synagogue setting dramatic demonic presence in religious space shows spiritual darkness can exist alongside religious activity. Jesus encounters evil head-on His ministry includes spiritual warfare. Reformed theology affirms reality of demonic realm while emphasizing Christ complete victory over Satan and demons through cross and resurrection.

Historical Context

First-century Judaism acknowledged demonic possession as real phenomenon. Exorcists existed using formulas rituals incantations. Jesus method was unique simple authoritative command without elaborate ritual. Demons recognized Jesus as Holy One of God acknowledging His divine identity. The synagogue congregation witnessed this displaying Jesus power publicly. This first miracle established Jesus authority over spiritual realm pattern continued throughout His ministry. Early church continued exorcism ministry in Jesus name demonstrating kingdom power.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' authority over demons demonstrate His identity and mission?
2. What does demonic presence in the synagogue teach about religious externalism versus genuine spirituality?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἦν	ἐν	τῇ	συναγωγῇ	αὐτῶν	ἄνθρωπος	ἐν
And	there was	in	G3588	synagogue	their	a man	in
G2532	G2258	G1722		G4864	G846	G444	G1722
πνεύματι	ἁκαθάρτῳ	καὶ	ἀνέκραξεν				
spirit	an unclean	And	he cried out				
G4151	G169	G2532	G349				

Additional Cross-References

Mark 9:25 (Spirit): When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.