

Mark 1:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee,
and cast out devils.

Analysis

This verse summarizes Christ's Galilean ministry in two parts: preaching in synagogues and casting out devils. The order is significant—proclamation precedes and governs power encounters. His use of existing Jewish religious infrastructure (synagogues) shows redemptive engagement with established institutions rather than wholesale rejection. The casting out of demons demonstrates the kingdom's power over Satan's realm.

Historical Context

First-century synagogues served as community centers for teaching, prayer, and social gathering. Any respected teacher could be invited to speak. Christ's dual ministry of teaching and exorcism was unusual—most rabbis focused solely on Torah exposition, while exorcists were typically separate practitioners.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's method of working within existing structures (synagogues) inform our approach to cultural engagement?
2. Why is the order significant—preaching first, then casting out demons—for our understanding of spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἦν κηρύσσων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν εἰς
And G2258 **he preached** **in** G3588 **synagogues** **their** **throughout**
G2532 G2784 G1722 G4864 G846 G1519

ὅλην τὴν Γαλιλαίαν καὶ τὰ δαιμόνια ἐκβάλλων
all G3588 **Galilee** **And** G3588 **devils** **cast out**
G3650 G1056 G2532 G1140 G1544

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 4:23 (Parallel theme): And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Mark 1:21 (Parallel theme): And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.