

Mark 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

Analysis

Unclean spirits confronting Jesus 'fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.' The demons recognized Jesus' true identity immediately, with no faith required. 'Fell down' (προσέπιπτον) indicates involuntary submission and terror. Their confession 'Thou art the Son of God' is theologically accurate, acknowledging divine nature and messianic identity. This demonstrates intellectual knowledge doesn't constitute saving faith—demons possess accurate Christology yet remain damned (James 2:19). 'Unclean spirits' emphasizes moral corruption and opposition to holiness.

Historical Context

Jewish demonology understood demons as fallen angels following Satan, inhabiting and tormenting humans. 'Unclean spirits' distinguished demonic beings from human and Holy Spirit. Exorcism was practiced, but Jesus' authority was unique—He commanded with simple word, requiring no elaborate rituals. Demons' recognition as 'Son of God' acknowledges authority over spiritual realm. This title carried messianic and divine implications.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does demonic recognition challenge those who intellectually affirm truth without saving faith?
2. What distinguishes genuine faith from mere intellectual assent?
3. How does Jesus' authority over demons demonstrate superiority over all spiritual powers?

Interlinear Text

καὶ τὰ πνεύματα τὰ ἀκάθαρτα ὅταν αὐτῷ ἐθεώρει,
And G3588 **spirits** G3588 **unclean** G169 **when** G3752 **him** G846 **they saw** G2334
G2532
προσέπιπεν αὐτῷ καὶ ἔκραζεν λέγοντα, ὅτι Σὺ εἶ
fell down before G4363 **him** G846 **And** G2532 **cried** G2896 **saying** G3004 G3754 **Thou** G4771 **art** G1488
ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ
G3588 **the Son** G5207 G3588 **of God** G2316

Additional Cross-References

Luke 4:41 (References God): 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 8:28 (References God): When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

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.

Matthew 8:29 (References God): And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

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

Acts 16:17 (References God): The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

Matthew 8:31 (Parallel theme): So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

Matthew 4:6 (References God): And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

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