

# Mark 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

## Analysis

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The demons 'besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.' The verb 'besought' (παρεκάλει, imperfect tense) indicates repeated, insistent pleading. They feared being sent 'out of the country' (ἔξω τῆς χώρας)—perhaps to the abyss (Luke 8:31), realm of disembodied torment. Demons prefer embodiment, whether human or animal. Their plea shows they operate under divine constraints—they cannot act without permission. Even evil spirits must submit to Christ's authority. Their desperation reveals terror of final judgment and temporary 'unemployment' in disembodied state.

## Historical Context

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Ancient demonology understood demons as preferring physical inhabitation. Disembodied existence was undesirable for spirits designed for angelic bodies. Jewish apocalyptic literature (1 Enoch, Jubilees) described demons' origin as fallen angels or spirits of dead giants (Genesis 6), all awaiting final judgment. The 'abyss' (ἄβυσσος) represented prison for particularly evil spirits (Revelation 9:1-11; 20:1-3). Demons' pleading demonstrates they operate under God's sovereign permission and Christ's authoritative control. Early church understood spiritual warfare as real but not dualistic—Satan and demons are powerful but limited, completely subject to God's authority.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does demons' need to request permission demonstrate God's sovereign control over evil?
2. What comfort does this provide in spiritual warfare—demons can only operate within divine constraints?
3. How should understanding demons' terror of Jesus affect your confidence when battling temptation or spiritual attack?

## Interlinear Text

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|               |                    |                    |             |       |       |            |             |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-------|------------|-------------|
| καὶ           | παρεκάλει          | αὐτοὺς             | πολλὰ       | ἵνα   | μὴ    | αὐτοὺς     | ἀποστείλῃ   |
| <b>And</b>    | <b>he besought</b> | <b>him</b>         | <b>much</b> | G2443 | G3361 | <b>him</b> | <b>away</b> |
| G2532         | G3870              | G846               | G4183       |       |       | G846       | G649        |
| ἔξω           | τῆς                | χώρας              |             |       |       |            |             |
| <b>out of</b> | G3588              | <b>the country</b> |             |       |       |            |             |
| G1854         |                    | G5561              |             |       |       |            |             |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 3:22** (Parallel theme): And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.