

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

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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

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

καὶ παρεκάλει αὐτοὺς πολλὰ ἵνα μὴ αὐτοὺς ἀποστείλῃ
And he besought him much G2443 G3361 him away
G2532 G3870 G846 G4183 G649 G646 G649

ἔξω τῆς χώρας
out of the country
G1854 G3588 G5561

Additional Cross-References

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.