

Mark 5:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

Analysis

All the demons 'besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.' The demons couldn't act without permission—showing their subjection to Christ. They preferred pig possession to disembodiment, revealing spiritual desperation. The request 'Send us' (Πέμψον ἡμᾶς) shows they needed authorization. Why did Jesus grant this?

1. Demonstrated demons' destructive nature
2. Validated exorcism publicly—visible evidence of liberation
3. Revealed demons' preferred embodiment over homelessness.

Jesus permitted evil's temporary expression to accomplish greater good—the man's liberation and public testimony.

Historical Context

Ancient understanding recognized demons sought embodiment. Jewish tradition held that disembodied demons wandered seeking rest (Matthew 12:43-45). Pigs, being unclean animals in Jewish thought, might be 'appropriate' demonic habitation from demons' perspective. Jesus' permission demonstrates sovereign control—He determines evil's boundaries. The visible, public exorcism provided undeniable evidence of liberation. Ancient worldviews—Jewish and pagan—would understand this transaction. Early church recognized Jesus' absolute authority over demons, including permitting temporary activity for greater redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' permission demonstrate that even evil serves God's ultimate purposes within sovereign boundaries?
2. What does demons' need to request permission teach about God's control over evil's limits?
3. How can you trust God's sovereignty even when He permits evil's temporary expression?

Interlinear Text

καὶ παρεκάλεσαν αὐτοὺς πάντες οἱ δαίμονες λέγοντες

And besought him all G3588 the devils saying
G2532 G3870 G846 G3956 G1142 G3004

Πέμψον ἡμᾶς εἰς τοὺς χοίρους ἵνα εἰς αὐτοὺς

Send us into the swine that into him
G3992 G2248 G1519 G3588 G5519 G2443 G1519 G846

εἰσέλθωμεν

we may enter
G1525

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 2:11 (Parallel theme): Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

1 Peter 5:8 (Evil): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

