

Mark 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

Analysis

After crossing, Jesus encountered 'a man with an unclean spirit' immediately. The phrase 'out of the tombs' (ἐκ τῶν μνημείων) indicates this demoniac lived among the dead—ritually unclean location. Jewish law forbade contact with corpses (Numbers 19:11-16), making tombs doubly defiling. Living among tombs symbolizes death's dominion over the demon-possessed. The description 'unclean spirit' (πνεῦμα ἀκάθαρτον) emphasizes moral corruption and opposition to holiness. This encounter demonstrates Jesus' authority extends beyond Jewish territory into Gentile regions, and His power transcends cultural and spiritual boundaries.

Historical Context

Tombs in Decapolis region were often caves carved in hillsides, used for burial. Living among dead was extreme social isolation—no one would voluntarily associate with corpse-defiled individuals. Gentile regions had different burial customs than Jewish Palestine but shared understanding of tombs as death-places. Demonic possession was recognized across cultures, though explanations varied. Early church encountered both Jewish and Gentile demonism, consistently demonstrating Christ's superior authority. This exorcism in Gentile territory foreshadows gospel's universal scope.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' authority in Gentile territory demonstrate gospel's universal power?
2. What spiritual 'tombs' (sin, bondage, isolation) characterize those apart from Christ?
3. How does this exorcism encourage ministry to those seemingly beyond hope?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐξελθόντι	αὐτῷ	ἐκ	τοῦ	πλοίου	εὐθὲς
And	when he was come	him	out of	G3588	the ship	immediately
G2532	G1831	G846	G1537		G4143	G2112
ἀπήντησεν	αὐτῷ	ἐκ	τῶν	μνημείων	ἄνθρωπος	ἐν
there met	him	out of	G3588	the tombs	a man	with
G528	G846	G1537		G3419	G444	G1722
πνεύματι	ἄκαθάρτῳ					
spirit	an unclean					
G4151	G169					

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:23 (Spirit): And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

Mark 5:8 (Spirit): For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

Isaiah 65:4 (Parallel theme): Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels;

Luke 9:42 (Spirit): And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org