

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 εὐθὲως
And when he was come him out of the ship immediately
G2532 G1831 G846 G1537 G3588 G4143 G2112

ἀπήντησεν αὐτῷ ἐκ τῶν μνημείων ἄνθρωπος ἐν
there met him out of the tombs a man with
G528 G846 G1537 G3588 G3419 G444 G1722

πνεύματι ἀκαθάρτῳ
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.

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