

Mark 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

Analysis

The possessed man's response to Jesus is paradoxical: 'when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him.' The demons recognized Jesus immediately—'afar off' (ἀπὸ μακρόθεν) suggests supernatural perception. The verb 'worshipped' (προσεκύνησεν) indicates falling prostrate, though not willing worship but involuntary submission to superior power. This demonstrates demons recognize Jesus' authority and are compelled to acknowledge it. Even hell's forces cannot resist Creator's presence. The man ran to Jesus despite demonic resistance—perhaps human personality crying for liberation alongside demonic forced submission.

Historical Context

Demon recognition of Jesus appears throughout Gospels (Mark 1:24; 3:11). Demons possess superior knowledge—they know Jesus' identity clearly without faith's necessity. James 2:19 notes demons believe and tremble—theological accuracy without saving faith. Ancient exorcism practices involved lengthy rituals; Jesus required none. His presence alone compelled demonic submission. Early church experienced similar demonic recognition (Acts 16:16-17; 19:15). Church history affirms spiritual warfare reality—demons are real, powerful, yet completely subject to Christ's authority.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does demonic forced worship of Jesus demonstrate His absolute authority over all spiritual powers?
2. What does this teach about the difference between acknowledging Jesus' identity and saving faith?
3. How should understanding demons' terror of Jesus affect your confidence in spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

ἰδὼν	δὲ	τὸν	Ἰησοῦν	ἀπὸ	μακρόθεν	ἔδραμεν	καὶ
when he saw	But	G3588	Jesus	afar off	G3113	he ran	and
G1492	G1161		G2424	G575		G5143	G2532
 προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ							
worshipped				him			
G4352				G846			

Additional Cross-References

James 2:19 (Parallel theme): Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Psalms 66:3 (Parallel theme): Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

Luke 4:41 (Parallel theme): And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

Acts 16:17 (Parallel theme): The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

Psalms 72:9 (Parallel theme): They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.

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