

Mark 5:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

Analysis

Mark explains the demon's plea: 'For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.' Jesus was already commanding exorcism when demon pleaded. The command 'Come out' (*Ἐξελθε*) is direct, authoritative. 'Unclean spirit' (*πνεῦμα τὸ ἀκάθαρτον*) emphasizes moral corruption and ritual defilement. Jesus required no elaborate ritual, lengthy ceremony, or magical formula—simple word sufficed. This demonstrates inherent authority. The demons' pleading shows they must obey but resist, seeking delay or negotiation. Jesus' word compels obedience; demons cannot resist Creator's command.

Historical Context

Ancient exorcism practices involved complex rituals: incantations, magical names, herbs, amulets. Jewish exorcists used Solomon's name or elaborate formulas (Acts 19:13-16). Pagan exorcisms invoked various deities. Jesus' simple, direct command demonstrated unique authority. He spoke as one possessing inherent right to command demons—because He created angels before their fall. Early church exorcised in Jesus' name (Mark 16:17; Acts 16:18), demonstrating delegated authority from Christ. Church history records exorcisms continuing but always based on Christ's authority, not human power or technique.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' simple, authoritative command demonstrate His deity and inherent power?
2. What does this teach about spiritual warfare—Christ's authority, not human technique, defeats demons?
3. How can believers exercise Christ's delegated authority over demonic forces today?

Interlinear Text

ἔλεγεν	γὰρ	αὐτῷ	Ἐξελθε	τὸ	πνεῦμα	τὸ	ἀκάθαρτον
he said	For	unto him	Come	G3588	spirit	G3588	thou unclean
G3004	G1063	G846	G1831		G4151		G169
ἐκ	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου					
out of	G3588	the man					
G1537		G444					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 16:18 (Spirit): And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Mark 1:25 (Parallel theme): And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.