

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' (Ἔξελθε) 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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.