

Mark 9:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

Analysis

The demon's final resistance was violent: 'the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead' (κράξας καὶ πολλὰ σπαράξας ἐξῆλθεν, καὶ ἐγένετο ὡσεὶ νεκρός). The demon's 'cry' (kraxas, κράξας) and violent convulsing (sparaxas, σπαράξας) represent final furious opposition before forced submission. The boy appeared dead (hōsei nekros, ὡσεὶ νεκρός), causing many to say 'He is dead' (v. 26). This resembles death and resurrection—the old life dominated by demons must 'die' before new life emerges. Jesus then 'took him by the hand, and lifted him up' (v. 27), evoking resurrection language (Mark 1:31; 5:41). Deliverance involves dying to bondage and rising to freedom. This pattern prefigures believers' death to sin and resurrection to new life in Christ (Romans 6:3-11).

Historical Context

The violent manifestation and death-like state terrified witnesses, demonstrating the severe oppression the boy endured. Ancient observers seeing someone unconscious after violent seizures might conclude death had occurred. The detail that 'many said, He is dead' emphasizes the crowd's conviction that the boy died in the exorcism. This intensified the miracle's impact when Jesus raised him—not mere healing but resurrection from apparent death. The language 'took him by the hand, and lifted him up' (ἐκράτησεν τῆς χειρὸς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἤγειρεν αὐτόν) uses egeirō (ἤγειρεν, 'raised'), the same verb for Jesus' resurrection, suggesting theological significance beyond physical healing.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the pattern of violent resistance before deliverance reflect spiritual warfare believers experience when being freed from sin's bondage?
2. What does the death-and-resurrection imagery in this exorcism teach about the nature of salvation as dying to the old life and rising to new life?

Interlinear Text

καὶ κράξαν, καὶ πολλοὺς σπαράξαν αὐτὸν,

And the spirit cried And many rent him
G2532 G2896 G2532 G4183 G4682 G846

ἐξῆλθεν· καὶ ἐγένετο ὡσεὶ νεκρός ὥστε πολλοὺς
and came out of him And he was as one dead insomuch many
G1831 G2532 G1096 G5616 G3498 G5620 G4183

λέγειν ὅτι ἀπέθανεν

said that He is dead
G3004 G3754 G599

Additional Cross-References

Mark 9:20 (Spirit): And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

Mark 1:26 (Spirit): And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.