

Matthew 12:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

Analysis

'Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.' Matthew introduces another dramatic healing: man with triple affliction—demon-possessed, blind, and mute. The comprehensiveness of disability demonstrates both demonic power to destroy and Christ's power to restore completely. Jesus 'healed him' (ἐθεράπευσεν αὐτόν/etherapeusen auton), restoring speech and sight simultaneously. The miracle's completeness—'both spake and saw'—eliminated natural explanation. Reformed theology sees such miracles as signs authenticating Jesus's divine identity and messianic credentials (John 20:30-31). They also demonstrate gospel power: Satan blinds spiritually, mutes gospel proclamation, and imprisons in darkness—but Christ liberates completely. The miracle provoked two responses: crowds wondered if Jesus was Messiah (v.23), Pharisees accused Him of satanic power (v.24). Identical evidence, opposite conclusions—pattern demonstrating spiritual perception depends on heart condition, not evidence quantity.

Historical Context

Demon possession occurred frequently in Gospel accounts—spirits causing physical and mental afflictions. Modern skepticism often dismisses this as primitive understanding of medical/psychiatric conditions, but Scripture distinguishes natural illness from demonic affliction (Matthew 4:24, Mark 1:32-34).

This particular case combined demonic, physical (blindness), and neurological (muteness) elements. The comprehensive healing demonstrated supernatural power. Linking blindness/muteness to demonic activity wasn't universal Jewish belief but appears in some accounts. The miracle occurred after Pharisees' Beelzebub accusation (12:24), prompting extended teaching on blasphemy against Holy Spirit (12:25-37). First-century world recognized supernatural realm more readily than modern secularism. Early church continued exorcisms (Acts 16:16-18, 19:11-16), though not as prominently as in Jesus's ministry—perhaps because cross/resurrection broke Satan's power (Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14-15). Modern church often swings between extremes: either attributing everything to demons or denying spiritual warfare entirely. Biblical balance recognizes real demonic activity while avoiding obsessive focus on it.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this comprehensive healing demonstrate the gospel's complete transformation—not partial improvement but total restoration?
2. What does the varied response to identical miracle teach about why clear evidence doesn't automatically produce faith?
3. How should Christians understand and approach demonic activity today—avoiding both denial and unhealthy obsession?

Interlinear Text

Τότε	προσηνέχθη	αὐτόν,	δαιμονιζόμενος	τυφλὸν	καὶ
Then	was brought	him	one possessed with a devil	blind	and
G5119	G4374	G846	G1139	G5185	G2532
κωφὸν	καὶ	ἐθεράπευσεν	αὐτόν,	ὥστε	τὸν τυφλὸν
dumb	and	he healed	him	insomuch that	blind
G2974	G2532	G2323	G846	G5620	G5185
καὶ	κωφὸν	καὶ	λαλεῖν	καὶ	βλέπειν
and	dumb	and	spake	and	saw
G2532	G2974	G2532	G2980	G2532	G991

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 29:18 (Parallel theme): And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

Acts 26:18 (Parallel theme): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Mark 3:11 (Parallel theme): And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

Matthew 4:24 (Evil): And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.