

Matthew 9:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.

Analysis

A unique case arrives: 'they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil' (προσηνεγκαν αυτω ανθρωπον κωφον δαιμονιζομενον). The combination of muteness (κωφον, unable to speak) and demon possession connects the physical symptom to spiritual cause. Unlike other healings where Jesus addresses disease directly, here He casts out the demon, resulting in speech restoration. This indicates the muteness stemmed from demonic oppression rather than natural causes. The passive 'they brought' shows the community's role in bringing the afflicted to Jesus—the man couldn't ask for himself. This models intercessory compassion: bringing those who cannot come themselves. Demon possession manifests in various ways—violence (8:28), seizures (17:15), muteness (9:32), blindness (12:22)—showing Satan's multi-faceted assault on human flourishing.

Historical Context

First-century Jewish and Greco-Roman cultures recognized demon possession as real spiritual affliction. Unlike modern naturalistic explanations reducing all such cases to mental illness, Scripture distinguishes between disease and demon possession while acknowledging both. Jewish exorcism practices involved elaborate rituals, incantations, and formulas. Jesus' simple command contrasted with these methods, demonstrating inherent authority. Muteness made the afflicted socially isolated and economically marginalized, unable to speak, testify, or advocate for himself. Demon oppression always dehumanizes and isolates.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How should Christians understand demon possession while avoiding both denial and sensationalism?
2. What does this miracle teach about bringing others to Jesus when they cannot come themselves?
3. How does Jesus' authority over demons demonstrate His power and compassion?

Interlinear Text

αὐτῷ δὲ ἐξερχομένων ἰδοὺ, προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ
to him As they went out behold they brought to him
G846 G1161 G1831 G2400 G4374 G846

ἄνθρωπον κωφὸν δαιμονιζόμενον
man a dumb possessed with a devil
G444 G2974 G1139

Additional Cross-References

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.

Luke 11:14 (Evil): And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered.

