

# Luke 4:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them.

## Analysis

**And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place.** After the intensive evening ministry, Jesus sought solitude. The phrase *genomenēs de hēmeras* (γενομένης δὲ ἡμέρας, when day came) indicates early morning. *He exelthōn eporeueto eis erēmon topon* (ἐξελθών ἐπορεύθη εἰς ἔρημον τόπον, departing went into a desert place) for prayer and rest. Mark 1:35 specifies He prayed. Despite crowds' needs, Jesus maintained rhythm of ministry and withdrawal.

**And the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them.** The crowd's response—*epezētoun auton* (ἐπεζήτουν αὐτόν, were seeking him) and *katechon auton* (κατεῖχον αὐτόν, tried to detain him)—reveals their desire to monopolize Jesus' ministry. They wanted permanent residence in Capernaum. But Jesus came to preach the kingdom to all, not settle in one location. Popularity and people's demands must not derail divine mission.

## Historical Context

Desert places near Capernaum provided solitude for prayer. Jesus consistently withdrew from crowds for communion with the Father (Luke 5:16, 6:12, 9:18, 11:1). This pattern demonstrates that even the incarnate Son needed time apart for prayer, modeling spiritual discipline for believers. The crowd's attempt to

detain Jesus reflects ancient patronage culture—communities wanted to claim successful teachers and healers as "their" resource. Jesus' refusal and insistence on broader ministry shows mission over popularity, obedience to the Father over human expectations. His example warns against allowing ministry success or people's demands to replace God's call.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jesus' early morning withdrawal for prayer teach about the necessity of solitude and communion with God, even during intensive ministry?
2. How does Jesus' refusal to be detained by the crowd demonstrate proper priorities: divine mission over human expectations or popularity?
3. In what ways might success and people's demands tempt you to abandon God's broader call for more comfortable or popular options?

## Interlinear Text

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Γενομένης δὲ ἡμέρας ἐξελθὼν πορεύεσθαι εἰς ἔρημον

**when it was** **And** **day** **he departed** **and went** **into** **a desert**

G1096

G1161

G2250

G1831

G4198

G1519

G2048

τόπον· καὶ οἱ ὄχλοι ἐζήτουν αὐτῶν καὶ ἤλθον ἔως

**place** **and** **the people** **sought** **him** **and** **came** **unto**

G5117

G2532

G3588

G3793

G2212

G846

G2532

G2064

G2193

αὐτῶν καὶ κατεῖχον αὐτῶν τοῦ μὴ πορεύεσθαι

**him** **and** **stayed** **him** **that he should not** **and went**

G846

G2532

G2722

G3588

G3361

G4198

ἀπ' αὐτῶν

**from** **him**

G575

G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 6:12** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

**John 4:34** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.