

Luke 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

Analysis

And the people, when they knew it, followed him—Despite Jesus's attempt to withdraw, the crowds tracked Him down. Their pursuit demonstrates hunger for His teaching and healing. **And he received them** (ἀποδεξάμενος αὐτούς, apodexamenos autous)—the verb indicates warm welcome despite His weariness and desire for solitude. Jesus's compassion overrode His need for rest (see Matthew 14:14: "he was moved with compassion toward them").

And spake unto them of the kingdom of God (έλαλει αὐτοῖς περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ, elalei autois peri tēs basileias tou theou)—Jesus's primary message was always the kingdom, God's sovereign rule breaking into history through the Messiah. The imperfect tense elalei ("was speaking") indicates extended teaching. **And healed them that had need of healing** (τοὺς χρείαν ἔχοντας θεραπείας ιᾶτο, tous chreian echontas therapeias iato)—Jesus combined proclamation with demonstration, Word with deed. The kingdom brings both truth (teaching) and transformation (healing)—comprehensive restoration of fallen humanity.

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee's geography made it difficult to find true solitude—the lake was only about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide, ringed with towns and villages. Crowds could easily track Jesus's movements by boat or on foot. The phrase "kingdom of

God" was Jesus's central message, appearing over 100 times in the Gospels. It proclaimed that God's reign, anticipated in the prophets, was now arriving in Jesus's person and work—not yet fully consummated but decisively inaugurated.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's compassionate reception of interrupting crowds challenge our attitudes toward inconvenient ministry opportunities?
2. What does the combination of teaching about the kingdom and healing bodies reveal about the comprehensive nature of the gospel?
3. How should proclamation and demonstration work together in contemporary Christian witness?

Interlinear Text

οἱ δὲ ὄχλοι γνόντες ἡκολούθησαν αὐτοῖς καὶ
G3588 And the people when they knew it followed him and
G1161 G3793 G1097 G190 G846 G2532

δεξάμενος αὐτοῖς ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς περὶ τῆς βασιλείας
he received him and spoke him of the kingdom
G1209 G846 G2980 G846 G4012 G3588 G932

τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ τοὺς χρείαν ἔχοντας θεραπείας ἰᾶτο
of God and G3588 need that had of healing healed
G2316 G2532 G5532 G2192 G2322 G2390

