

Mark 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

Analysis

Jesus 'had healed many'—pluperfect tense indicating completed action with ongoing effects. Consequently, 'they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.' The word 'plagues' (μάστιγες) literally means 'scourges,' metaphorically diseases as divine punishment or assault. The crowd's desperate pressing reveals faith that physical contact conveyed healing power. This belief was validated—touching Jesus' garment healed (Mark 5:27-29; 6:56). The scene depicts Jesus besieged by suffering humanity, foreshadowing ultimate healing through His passion.

Historical Context

In first-century Judaism, touch had ritual significance. Contact with diseased rendered one ceremonially impure. Yet Jesus didn't avoid contact—He touched lepers, the dead, and allowed hemorrhaging women to touch Him. This revolutionary approach demonstrated Jesus' holiness wasn't defiled; rather, His healing power cleansed the unclean. The crowd's belief reflects ancient understanding that power transfers through physical contact (2 Kings 13:21; Acts 19:11-12).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the crowd's desperate pursuit challenge your complacency in seeking Jesus?
2. What 'plagues' drive you to press toward Jesus for healing?
3. How does Jesus' willingness to be touched reveal God's compassionate accessibility?

Interlinear Text

πολλοὺς	γὰρ	ἐθεράπευσεν	ὥστε	ἐπιπίπτειν	αὐτοῦ
many	For	he had healed	insomuch that	they pressed upon	him
G4183	G1063	G2323	G5620	G1968	G846
ἵνα	αὐτοῦ	ἅψωνται	ὅσοι	εἶχον	μάστιγας
for to	him	touch	as many as	had	plagues
G2443	G846	G680	G3745	G2192	G3148

Additional Cross-References

Mark 6:56 (Parallel theme): And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

Matthew 14:36 (Parallel theme): And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Matthew 4:23 (Parallel theme): And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.