

Mark 3:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

Analysis

Jesus and disciples entered 'into an house' seeking rest, but 'the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.' The crowd's relentless pursuit prevented basic self-care. The phrase emphasizes extreme pressure—not even time for meals. This reveals Jesus' full humanity—experiencing physical needs and limitations. His response demonstrates compassion overcoming personal inconvenience. Reformed theology affirms Christ's true humanity while maintaining deity—He experienced genuine limitations without sin.

Historical Context

Ancient Palestinian houses consisted of small rooms with limited privacy. Extended families and visitors crowded together. Jesus' fame made privacy impossible. This detail suggests eyewitness observation, likely from Peter or apostles who experienced this pressure. Constant demand contributed to need for periodic withdrawal to deserted places (Mark 6:31-32). The scene illustrates both Jesus' accessibility and exhausting reality of public ministry.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' inability to eat due to ministry demands challenge understanding of healthy boundaries?
2. What balance should exist between compassionate availability and necessary self-care?
3. How does this encourage those overwhelmed by ministry demands?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	συνέρχεται	πάλιν	ὄχλος	ὥστε	μὴ	δύνασθαι
And	cometh together	again	the multitude	so that	not	could
G2532	G4905	G3825	G3793	G5620	G3361	G1410
αὐτοὺς	μήτε	ἄρτον	φαγεῖν			
they	so much as	bread	eat			
G846	G3383	G740	G5315			

Additional Cross-References

Mark 6:31 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.