

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 ὅχλος ὅστε 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.

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