

Mark 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea,

Analysis

Jesus 'withdrew...to the sea'—strategic retreat, not cowardly flight. 'A great multitude from Galilee followed' despite religious leaders' opposition. The list of regions (Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond Jordan, Tyre, Sidon) demonstrates widespread fame extending into Gentile regions. This foreshadows gospel expansion to all nations. The multitude's size and diversity reveals common people recognized Jesus' authority despite official rejection. Reformed theology: evidence of God's sovereign election from every tribe and nation.

Historical Context

The geographical scope is remarkable. Galilee (northern) was Jesus' ministry base. Judea and Jerusalem (south) represented religious establishment. Idumea (ancient Edom) was semi-Gentile. 'Beyond Jordan' refers to Perea (east). Tyre and Sidon (northwest coastal) were Gentile Phoenician territories. This diverse crowd fulfills prophecies of Messiah drawing all nations (Isaiah 49:6; 60:3).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' strategic withdrawal teach wisdom in facing opposition?
2. What does the diverse crowd reveal about the gospel's universal appeal?
3. How does this encourage you when facing rejection from religious authorities?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀνεχώρησεν μετὰ τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτῷ,
But ^{G3588} **Jesus** ^{G2424} **withdrew himself** ^{G402} **with** ^{G3588} **disciples** ^{G3101} **him** ^{G846}

πρὸς τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ πολὺ πλῆθος ἀπὸ τῆς
to ^{G3588} **the sea** ^{G2281} **But** ^{G2532} **a great** ^{G4183} **multitude** ^{G4128} **from** ^{G3588} ^{G575}

Γαλιλαίας ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς Ἰουδαίας
Galilee ^{G1056} **followed** ^{G190} **him** ^{G846} **But** ^{G2532} **from** ^{G3588} ^{G575} **Judaea** ^{G2449}

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 4:25 (Parallel theme): And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.

Luke 6:17 (Parallel theme): And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

Matthew 12:15 (References Jesus): But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;