

Mark 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.

Analysis

The multitude came 'when they had heard what great things he did'—reputation spread by word-of-mouth. The imperfect tense indicates continuous stream. They came because of miracles authenticating authority. While miracles alone don't produce saving faith, they serve apologetic purposes, drawing people to investigate. The emphasis on 'great things' (οσα ἐποίει) highlights Jesus' extraordinary power. Reformed theology affirms miracles as divine authentication.

Historical Context

In the ancient world, reputation spread through oral communication and eyewitness testimony. News traveled rapidly. 'Great things' echoes Old Testament language for God's mighty acts (Deuteronomy 10:21; Psalm 106:21). By attributing 'great things' to Jesus, people implicitly recognized divine power. This popularity explains why authorities felt threatened. Jesus' fame became so great He could no longer enter cities openly (Mark 1:45).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What draws you to Jesus—His benefits or His person and teaching?
2. How does Jesus' reputation spread today through testimony?
3. What 'great things' has Jesus done that you could share?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς Ἰδουμαίας καὶ
And from Jerusalem And from G3588 Idumaea And
G2532 G575 G2414 G2532 G575 G3588 G2401 G2532

πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου καὶ οἱ περὶ Τύρον καὶ
from beyond G3588 Jordan And G3588 they about Tyre And
G4008 G2446 G2532 G4012 G5184 G2532

Σιδῶνα πλῆθος πολύ ἀκούσαντες ὅσα ἐποίει
Sidon multitude a great when they had heard what great things he did
G4605 G4128 G4183 G191 G3745 G4160

ἥλθον πρὸς αὐτόν
came unto him
G2064 G4314 G846

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 35:15 (Parallel theme): As thou didst rejoice at the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so will I do unto thee: thou shalt be desolate, O mount Seir, and all Idumea, even all of it: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Isaiah 34:5 (Parallel theme): For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.

Matthew 11:21 (Parallel theme): Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Ezekiel 36:5 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey.

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