

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' (ὅσα ἐποίησεν) 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		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		
ἦλθον	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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