

Mark 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.

Analysis

Jesus commanded disciples to keep 'a small ship' ready 'because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.' The verb 'throng' (θλίβω) means press, crush—the crowd's enthusiasm threatened to overwhelm Him physically. This practical measure demonstrates wisdom in managing ministry demands. The boat served dual purposes: escape from crowds and floating platform for teaching (Mark 4:1). This reveals Jesus' full humanity—experiencing physical limitations, fatigue, need for space. Reformed Christology affirms Christ's full deity and full humanity.

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee's shore provided natural amphitheater. A boat slightly offshore allowed addressing crowds while maintaining safe distance. Small fishing boats (πλοιάριον) were common, typically 20-30 feet long. Jesus' regular use suggests close relationship with fishing disciples who provided transport. This detail reflects eyewitness testimony, likely from Peter.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' need for physical boundaries challenge expectations of unlimited availability?
2. What wisdom can you learn from Jesus' practical measures to manage demands?
3. How do you balance accessibility with necessary self-care?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπεν τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτόν· ἵνα πλοιάριον
And he spake ^{G3588} **disciples** **him** **that** **a small ship**
G2532 G2036 G3101 G846 G2443 G4142

προσκατερῇ αὐτόν· διὰ τὸν ὄχλον ἵνα μὴ
should wait on **him** **because** ^{G3588} **of the multitude** **that** ^{G3361}
G4342 G846 G1223 G3793 G2443

θλίβωσιν αὐτόν·
they should throng **him**
G2346 G846

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