

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' ($\thetaλίβω$) 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 ($\piλοιάριον$) 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

Psalm 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

προσκαρτερῇ 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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