

Mark 4:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

Analysis

This transitional verse sets up one of Jesus's most powerful nature miracles. The phrase "on that day" (ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, en ekeinē tē hēmera) connects to Jesus's extensive parable teaching earlier in Mark 4—He'd been teaching crowds from a boat on the Sea of Galilee about the Kingdom of God. The temporal marker "when evening had come" (օψίας γενομένης, opsias genomenēs) indicates exhaustion after a full day of ministry, setting up Jesus's profound sleep during the storm. Jesus's command "Let us pass over to the other side" (Διέλθωμεν εἰς τὸ πέραν, dielthōmen eis to peran) is significant—the Greek verb διέρχομαι (dierchomai) means to go through completely, suggesting determination and certainty of arrival. The phrase 'the other side' refers to the eastern shore of Galilee, predominantly Gentile territory (the Decapolis), foreshadowing Jesus's ministry expansion beyond Jewish boundaries. This simple command demonstrates Jesus's authority—He doesn't suggest or request, but decisively directs. The disciples' immediate obedience sets up the dramatic storm encounter (verses 36-41) that reveals Jesus's divine authority over nature. The initiative is entirely Jesus's—He decides when and where to go, even into Gentile regions and dangerous evening crossings.

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee, actually a freshwater lake, is about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide, 680 feet below sea level. Its location in a basin surrounded by hills makes it prone to sudden, violent storms when cool air from the heights rushes down to meet warm air over the water. The crossing from the western (Jewish) shore to the

eastern (Gentile) shore was about 5-7 miles, normally taking 2-3 hours. Jesus and the disciples had spent the entire day on the water—Jesus teaching from the boat to avoid crushing crowds (Mark 4:1). By evening, Jesus was exhausted (He falls asleep in verse 38). The decision to cross at evening was unusual—most fishermen avoided night sailing unless necessary. This sets up the lesson about faith during storms and Jesus's power to command creation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why did Jesus choose to cross to the Gentile side of the lake—what does this foreshadow?
2. What does the timing (evening after a full day of teaching) reveal about Jesus's humanity?
3. How does Jesus's decisive command 'Let us pass over' demonstrate His leadership?
4. What spiritual parallels exist between crossing to 'the other side' and Christian life?
5. How does this verse set up the faith lesson that follows in the storm narrative?

Interlinear Text

Kαὶ	λέγει	αὐτοῖς	ἐν	ἐκείνῃ	τῇ	ἡμέρᾳ	όψιας
And	he saith	unto them	the	same	G3588	day	when the even
G2532	G3004	G846	G1722	G1565		G2250	G3798
γενομένης	Διέλθωμεν	εἰς	τὸ	πέραν			
was come	Let us pass over	unto	G3588	the other side			
G1096	G1330	G1519		G4008			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 8:18 (Parallel theme): Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

Luke 8:25 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Luke 8:22 (Parallel theme): Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.

Matthew 14:22 (Parallel theme): And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

Mark 8:13 (Parallel theme): And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side.

John 6:25 (Parallel theme): And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

John 6:17 (Parallel theme): And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

John 6:1 (Parallel theme): After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.