

Mark 5:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.

Analysis

Jesus returned across the sea; 'much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.' His return to Jewish territory attracted crowds immediately. The phrase 'much people' (ὄχλος πολύς) indicates large gathering. They came to Him eagerly—His fame spread throughout region. The location 'nigh unto the sea' sets stage for Jairus' interruption (vv. 22-24) and embedded story of hemorrhaging woman (vv. 25-34). Jesus' accessibility to crowds despite exhausting ministry demonstrates compassionate availability. His presence drew needy people—some with faith, some with curiosity, all seeking something from Him.

Historical Context

Jesus' Galilean ministry centered on Capernaum and surrounding towns. The Sea of Galilee provided central location accessible from multiple communities. Crowds gathered when word spread of Jesus' return. Ancient communication relied on word-of-mouth, but news traveled quickly in small communities. The gathering crowd sets context for next miracles—Jairus' daughter raised and hemorrhaging woman healed. Both stories illustrate faith responding to Jesus' presence and power. Early church remembered these events as demonstrating Christ's authority over disease and death. Church history records them as foundational Christological evidence.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' accessibility to needy crowds model compassionate ministry despite personal needs?
2. What draws you to Jesus—genuine faith, curiosity, or desire for benefits?
3. How can you balance accessibility to others with necessary self-care and spiritual renewal?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	διαπεράσαντος	τοῦ	Ἰησοῦ	ἐν	τῷ	πλοίῳ	πάλιν	
And	was passed over	G3588	when Jesus	by	G3588	ship	again	
G2532	G1276		G2424	G1722		G4143	G3825	
εἰς	τὸ	πέραν	συνήχθη	ὄχλος	πολὺς	ἐπ'	αὐτόν	καὶ
unto	G3588	the other side	gathered	people	much	unto	him	And
G1519		G4008	G4863	G3793	G4183	G1909	G846	G2532
ἦν	παρὰ	τὴν	θάλασσαν					
he was	nigh	G3588	unto the sea					
G2258	G3844		G2281					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 9:1 (Parallel theme): And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city.