

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 when Jesus by ship again
G2532 G1276 G3588 G2424 G1722 G3588 G4143 G3825

εἰς τὸ πέραν συνήχθη ὄχλος πολὺς ἐπ' αὐτόν καὶ
unto the other side gathered people much unto him And
G1519 G3588 G4008 G4863 G3793 G4183 G1909 G846 G2532

ἥν παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν
he was nigh unto the sea
G2258 G3588 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.