

Mark 7:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.

Analysis

Departing from Tyre and Sidon, through the Decapolis—Jesus's geographical movements are theologically significant. This circuitous route—through Sidon, then the Decapolis (ten cities), a Gentile region—indicates intentional ministry among Gentiles. The Decapolis was where Jesus healed the Gerasene demoniac who proclaimed what Jesus did (Mark 5:20). Now Jesus returns. Faithful witness prepared soil for fruitful ministry. Jesus's Gentile ministry prefigures the Great Commission—though His earthly mission targeted Israel primarily, He repeatedly ministered to Gentiles, foreshadowing the gospel to all nations (Ephesians 2:14).

Historical Context

The Decapolis was a league of ten Greco-Roman cities (63 BC), predominantly Gentile Hellenistic culture centers. That Jesus traveled extensively through Gentile territory demonstrates His mission's universal scope. The religious establishment criticized Him for associating with sinners; ministry among pagans was more scandalous. Yet Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), transcending ethnic and religious boundaries.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's intentional Gentile ministry challenge boundaries you erect regarding who deserves the gospel?
2. What does Jesus's circuitous route teach about divine sovereignty in arranging ministry appointments?
3. How does earlier testimony preparing the Decapolis illustrate the relationship between faithful witness and gospel receptivity?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ πάλιν ἐξελθὼν ἐκ τῶν ὁρίων Τύρου Καὶ¹
And again departing from of the coasts of Tyre And
G2532 G3825 G1831 G3588 G3725 G5184 G2532

Σιδῶνος ἦλθεν πρὸς τὴν θάλασσαν τῆς Γαλιλαίας
Sidon he came unto the sea of Galilee
G4605 G2064 G4314 G3588 G2281 G3588 G1056

ἀνὰ μέσον τῶν ὁρίων Δεκαπόλεως
through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis
G303 G3319 G3588 G3725 G1179

Additional Cross-References

Mark 5:20 (Parallel theme): And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

Matthew 4:25 (Parallel theme): And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.

Mark 7:24 (Parallel theme): And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.

