

# Mark 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side.

## Analysis

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**He left them** (ἀφείς, apheis)—the participle suggests decisive abandonment. Jesus doesn't argue or attempt to persuade hardened hearts. This foreshadows His ultimate 'leaving' at the ascension and Israel's consequent judgment (AD 70). Matthew 23:38 pronounces Jerusalem's 'house left desolate.' When people persistently reject light, God eventually withdraws it—a sobering warning about the danger of hardened unbelief.

**Entering into the ship again departed to the other side**—Jesus returns to Gentile territory, symbolizing the gospel's movement from unbelieving Israel to receptive Gentiles (Acts 13:46; 28:28). The boat represents the church, carrying Christ's presence away from those who reject Him to those who will receive Him. This verse creates dramatic tension—Jesus has just fed 4,000 Gentiles (demonstrating messianic provision), only to face Jewish religious leaders demanding signs. The contrast exposes Israel's tragic irony: Gentiles receive bread while Jewish leaders reject the Bread of Life.

## Historical Context

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Jesus' departure recalls God's glory leaving Jerusalem's temple (Ezekiel 10-11) before Babylonian destruction. The Pharisees' rejection anticipated Judaism's formal rejection of Jesus, culminating in His crucifixion. Early church saw this pattern repeating—Paul regularly preached in synagogues first, but when Jews rejected the gospel, he turned to Gentiles (Acts 13:46; 18:6; 28:28). The boat's

'other side' represents Gentile mission fields—the church crosses cultural boundaries to reach those willing to receive Christ.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jesus' departure teach about God's response to persistent, willful rejection of truth?
2. How does this verse challenge assumptions that religious heritage or proximity to Jesus guarantees salvation?
3. In what ways might Jesus be 'leaving' churches or individuals who have hardened their hearts to His word?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἀφείς	αὐτοὺς	ἐμβὰς	πάλιν	εἰς	τὸ	πλοῖον
<b>And</b>	<b>he left</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>and entering</b>	<b>again</b>	<b>into</b>	G3588	<b>the ship</b>
G2532	G863	G846	G1684	G3825	G1519		G4143
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ἀπῆλθεν	εἰς	τὸ	πέραν				
<b>departed</b>	<b>into</b>	G3588	<b>the other side</b>				
G565	G1519		G4008				

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