

Matthew 13:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

Analysis

And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables (Καὶ ἐγένετο ὅτε ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς παραβολὰς ταύτας)—This transitional formula appears five times in Matthew (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1), marking major discourse sections: the Sermon on the Mount, missionary instructions, kingdom parables, church discipline, and the Olivet Discourse. The verb τελέω (teleō) means 'to complete, fulfill, accomplish,' suggesting Jesus systematically completed His teaching agenda.

He departed thence (μετῆρεν ἐκεῖθεν)—The verb μεταίρω indicates purposeful movement to a new location and ministry phase. This departure from Capernaum (where the parables were spoken by the sea, 13:1-2) leads to His rejection at Nazareth (vv. 54-58), marking a turning point. Having fully revealed the kingdom's mysteries, Jesus moves toward His ultimate mission—the cross. Geography in Matthew is always theological.

Historical Context

Matthew structures his Gospel around five major teaching blocks (chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, 23-25), each concluding with this formula. This parallel's Moses's five books (Pentateuch), presenting Jesus as the new Moses giving authoritative interpretation. The departure marks the end of Jesus's public Galilean ministry's most productive phase, after which opposition intensifies and He begins preparing disciples for His death.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do Jesus's structured teaching discourses demonstrate His intentionality in discipling His followers?
2. What does Jesus's movement from revelation to rejection teach about the correlation between light given and judgment deserved?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	ἐγένετο	ὅτε	ἐτέλεσεν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	τὰς
And	it came to pass	that when	had finished	G3588	Jesus	G3588
G2532	G1096	G3753	G5055		G2424	
παραβολὰς	ταύτας	μετήρην	ἐκεῖθεν			
parables	G3778	he departed	thence			
G3850		G3332	G1564			

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