

Matthew 14:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

Analysis

Jesus' response to John the Baptist's death—"he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart"—shows His humanity. He needed solitude to grieve and pray. Yet 'when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot' demonstrates His compassion overriding personal need. This sets the context for the feeding miracle—Jesus' grief interrupted by needy multitudes whom He received with compassion rather than irritation.

Historical Context

John the Baptist's martyrdom signaled escalating opposition that would culminate in Jesus' own death. The desert place east of Bethsaida provided temporary refuge. The crowds' foot journey around the lake (possibly 5-10 miles) demonstrated desperate hunger for Jesus' teaching and healing.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' example of ministry despite personal grief challenge you?
2. When have you had to set aside your needs to serve others?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀκούσαντες ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀνεχώρησεν ἐκεῖθεν ἐν
When had heard G3588 Jesus of it he departed thence by
G2532 G191 G2424 G402 G1564 G1722

πλοίῳ εἰς ἔρημον τόπον κατ' ιδίαν· καὶ ἀκούσαντες
ship into a desert place apart G2398 When had heard
G4143 G1519 G2048 G5117 G2596 G2532 G191

οἱ ὄχλοι ἡκολούθησαν αὐτῷ πεζῇ ἀπὸ τῶν
G3588 when the people thereof they followed him on foot out of G3588
G3793 G190 G6846 G3979 G575

πόλεων
the cities
G4172

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 12:15 (References Jesus): But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;