

Matthew 15:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.

Analysis

And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee (Καὶ μεταβὰς ἐκεῖθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἥλθεν παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν τῆς Γαλιλαίας)—The verb μεταβαίνω (metabainō, 'to pass over, to remove, to depart') indicates deliberate transition from the region of Tyre and Sidon (15:21) back to Jewish territory. Jesus had just healed the Canaanite woman's daughter (15:28), demonstrating mercy to Gentiles, but now returns to minister among His own people. **And went up into a mountain, and sat down there** (καὶ ἀναβὰς εἰς τὸ ὄρος ἐκάθητο ἐκεῖ)—ascending the mountain and sitting (κάθημαι, kathēmai) was the posture of authoritative teaching (5:1).

Matthew presents Jesus on mountains at key moments: temptation (4:8), Sermon on the Mount (5:1), Transfiguration (17:1), Olivet Discourse (24:3), Great Commission (28:16). Here He sits in the teacher's posture, but what follows is not teaching but healing (v. 30), showing His words and works mutually authenticate His messianic identity. The mountain setting recalls Moses on Sinai, but Jesus surpasses Moses—He doesn't merely mediate God's law but manifests God's healing presence.

Historical Context

This likely occurred on the eastern shore of Galilee in the Decapolis region (Mark 7:31), predominantly Gentile territory. Jesus's circular route from Galilee through Phoenicia and back through the Decapolis demonstrated His mission extended

beyond Jewish boundaries, foreshadowing the gospel's universal scope (Matthew 28:19). The region's mixed population explains why the crowd glorified 'the God of Israel' (v. 31)—they were Gentiles recognizing Israel's God.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's movement between Jewish and Gentile territories model the gospel's 'to the Jew first, and also to the Greek' priority (Romans 1:16)?
2. What does His sitting position teach about resting in God's sovereignty even while actively engaged in ministry?

Interlinear Text

καὶ μεταβὰς ἐκεῖθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἤλθεν παρὰ τὴν
And departed from thence G3588 Jesus and came nigh unto G3588
G2532 G327 G1564 G2424 G2064 G3844

Θάλασσαν τῆς Γαλιλαίας καὶ ἀναβὰς εἰς τὸ ὄρος
the sea G3588 of Galilee And went up into G3588 a mountain
G2281 G1056 G2532 G305 G1519 G3735

ἐκάθητο ἐκεῖ
and sat down there
G2521 G1563

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 4:18 (References Jesus): And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Matthew 5:1 (Parallel theme): And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

John 6:1 (References Jesus): After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

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