

# Matthew 15:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

## Analysis

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**And he sent away the multitude, and took ship** (καὶ ἀπολύσας τοὺς ὄχλους ἐνέβη εἰς τὸ πλοῖον)—The verb ἀπολύω (apolyō, 'to send away, to dismiss, to release') indicates orderly dismissal, not abandonment. Jesus controlled both gathering and dispersing—sovereign over crowd dynamics. He didn't cling to popularity but purposefully moved according to His Father's agenda. Taking ship (ἐμβαίνω εἰς τὸ πλοῖον) marks transition to His next ministry location.

**And came into the coasts of Magdala** (καὶ ἤλθεν εἰς τὰ ὅρια Μαγδαλά)—Magdala (Μαγδαλά, Hebrew Migdal meaning 'tower') was a fishing town on Galilee's western shore, home of Mary Magdalene (27:56, 61; 28:1). Mark 8:10 calls it 'Dalmanutha.' The movement from Gentile Decapolis back to Jewish territory shows Jesus's balanced ministry. He neither exclusively focused on Jews nor Gentiles but ministered to both, breaking down the dividing wall (Ephesians 2:14).

## Historical Context

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Magdala was a prosperous first-century fishing village (excavations reveal fish-processing facilities, synagogue, harbor, markets). Its prosperity contrasts with the wilderness just left, yet Jesus found spiritual poverty in prosperous places and faith in desolate regions. The return to Jewish territory led to confrontation with Pharisees and Sadducees (16:1-4), showing that proximity to Jesus doesn't

guarantee acceptance—the Decapolis Gentiles showed more faith than Magdala's religious elite.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's willingness to send away crowds challenge modern success-metrics focused on numbers?
2. Why did Jesus find more receptivity among marginalized Gentiles than religious Jewish leaders?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἀπολύσας τοὺς ὄχλους ἐνέβη εἰς τὸ πλοῖον  
And he sent away G3588 the multitude and took into G3588 G4143  
G2532 G630 G3793 G1684 G1519

καὶ ἤλθεν εἰς τὰ ὄρια Μαγδαλά  
And came into G3588 the coasts of Magdala  
G2532 G2064 G1519 G3725 G3093

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 8:10** (Parallel theme): And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha.