

Matthew 4:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.

Analysis

The 'great multitudes' following Jesus from multiple regions demonstrates the magnetic power of His teaching and miracles. The geographic breadth—Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond Jordan—shows how quickly His fame spread. These crowds represent varied motives: some sought healing, others teaching, some were merely curious. This mixed multitude foreshadows the visible church containing both wheat and tares (Matthew 13:24-30).

Historical Context

Decapolis ('ten cities') was a region southeast of Galilee with predominantly Gentile population. The geographic list shows Jesus' ministry attracting both Jews and Gentiles. Travel required significant effort, indicating strong motivation to hear Jesus despite distance and difficulty.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the mixed composition of the crowds teach about distinguishing between genuine disciples and mere followers?
2. How should the church today respond to those who come with varied motives —some genuine, some superficial?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἡκολούθησαν αὐτῷ ὅχλοι πολλοὶ ἀπὸ τῆς
And there followed him multitudes of people great from G3588
G2532 G190 G846 G3793 G4183 G575

Γαλιλαίας καὶ Δεκαπόλεως καὶ Ἱεροσολύμων καὶ
Galilee And from Decapolis And from Jerusalem And
G1056 G2532 G1179 G2532 G2414 G2532

Ἰουδαίας καὶ πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου
from Judaea And from beyond G3588 Jordan
G2449 G2532 G4008 G2446

Additional Cross-References

Luke 6:17 (References Jerusalem): And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

Mark 5:20 (Parallel theme): And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

Mark 7:31 (Parallel theme): And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.