

Matthew 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

Analysis

The transition from the Sermon on the Mount to healing miracles demonstrates that Jesus' words are authenticated by His works. The great multitudes following show both genuine interest and mixed motives—some seek teaching, others healing. This crowd represents the visible church containing both wheat and tares, with varied levels of commitment. Christ's compassionate response to human need reveals God's character while His miracles serve as signs confirming His messianic identity.

Historical Context

Following the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Matthew presents a series of ten miracles (chapters 8-9) demonstrating Jesus' authority over disease, demons, nature, and death. This structure parallels Moses' ten plagues, presenting Jesus as the greater Moses with power to heal rather than merely judge.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do Jesus' miracles function as signs authenticating His divine identity and teaching authority?
2. What does the crowd's mixed response teach about distinguishing genuine disciples from mere curious followers?

Interlinear Text

Καταβάντι δὲ αὐτῷ ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄρους ἡκολούθησαν

was come down **When** **he** **from** **the mountain** **followed**

G2597

G1161

G846

G3588

G3735

G190

αὐτῷ ὅχλοι πολλοί

he **multitudes** **great**

G846

G3793

G4183

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 8:18 (Parallel theme): Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

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