

Matthew 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.

Analysis

Jesus' command to 'depart unto the other side' demonstrates His control over His ministry timing and movements. Despite great multitudes and ongoing ministry opportunities, He chose strategic withdrawal. This shows that effective ministry requires rhythm of engagement and rest, public ministry and private prayer. Christ wasn't driven by crowd demands but by the Father's will. This models that faithfulness to calling doesn't mean availability to every demand.

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee is approximately 13 miles long and 8 miles wide. 'The other side' likely refers to the eastern shore, less populated and predominantly Gentile. Jesus often withdrew from crowds for rest, prayer, and focused teaching of the Twelve.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' withdrawal despite continuing needs teach about sustainable ministry rhythms and priorities?
2. How can you discern between legitimate needs demanding response and when to strategically withdraw for rest and prayer?

Interlinear Text

Ἰδὼν	δὲ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	πολλοὺς	ὄχλους	περὶ	αὐτὸν
saw	Now	G3588	when Jesus	great	multitudes	about	G846
G1492	G1161		G2424	G4183	G3793	G4012	
ἐκέλευσεν	ἀπελθεῖν	εἰς	τὸ	πέραν			
he gave commandment	to depart	unto	G3588	the other side			
G2753	G565	G1519		G4008			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:22 (Parallel theme): Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.

Mark 4:35 (Parallel theme): And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

John 6:15 (References Jesus): When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.