

# 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

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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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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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 the other side  
G2753 G565 G1519 G3588 G4008

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.