INDICATIONS OF CROWD CONTROL PROBLEMS IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Mark seems to explain that Jesus' secrecy was necessary (in part) for crowd-control purposes. The crowds thronging to Jesus become so burdensome that were oppressive and harassing.

1. Jesus had to escape from the crowds early in the morning to go pray (1:35-37)
2. Jesus could not go into a town openly, but stayed out in the countryside (1:45).
3. Four men had to bring a paralyzed man to Jesus through the roof of a house (2:1-4)
4. Jesus had to get into a boat to avoid being crushed by the crowds (3:7-10)
5. Jesus' mother and brothers couldn't get to him (3:31-32)
6. Jesus couldn't eat because of the crowd (3:20)
7. Jesus had to teach from a boat in the water (4:1)
8. Jesus had to sail to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (4:35-36; 5:21)
9. A hemorrhaging woman slipped through the crowd to touch Jesus to be healed (5:24-34)
10. Jesus had to forbid the crowds to come with him to Jairus' house (5:35-43)
11. Jesus escaped the crowds to relax and eat (6:30-32)
12. Jesus had to feed 5000 (6:33-44)
13. Jesus dismissed the crowd so he could go pray alone (6:45-47)
14. Jesus had to heal many, many people (6:53-56)
15. Jesus went to Tyre to escape the crowds (7:24-25)
16. Jesus had to feed 4000 (8:1-10)
17. Jesus discouraged the crowd by demanding commitment to the point of martyrdom (8:34-38)
18. Jesus tried to pass through Galilee secretly (9:30-32)

Dr. Jeff Cate, California Baptist University