

John 11:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

Analysis

Jesus responds to the death plot by withdrawing from public ministry among hostile Jews. He goes to Ephraim, a small town near the wilderness, demonstrating wisdom in avoiding premature death. This strategic withdrawal shows divine sovereignty over timing: Jesus dies at the appointed hour, not before. His withdrawal also fulfills Scripture's pattern of the rejected prophet. The phrase 'no more openly' indicates continued but restricted ministry. Even Jesus' geographical movements serve redemptive timing.

Historical Context

Ephraim's location (possibly modern et-Taiyibeh) was about 15 miles northeast of Jerusalem near wilderness, providing refuge. This withdrawal parallels earlier withdrawals (7:1; 10:40) when threats intensified.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' strategic withdrawal teach about wisdom in facing opposition?
2. How does His control over timing demonstrate sovereignty even in apparent retreat?
3. When should we withdraw from opposition versus standing firm?

Interlinear Text

Ἰησοῦς οὖν οὐκ ἔτι παρόρησίᾳ περιεπάτει ἐν
Jesus therefore G3756 no more G2089 openly G3954 walked G4043 among G1722

τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθεν ἐκεῖθεν εἰς τὴν χώραν
G3588 the Jews G2453 but G235 went G565 thence G1564 into G3588 a country G5561

ἐγγὺς τῆς ἐρήμου εἰς Ἐφραὶμ λεγομένην πόλιν
near G3588 to the wilderness G2048 into Ephraim G2187 called G3004 a city G4172

κάκει διέτριβεν μετὰ τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ
and there G2546 continued G1304 with G3326 G3588 disciples G3101 G846

Additional Cross-References

John 7:1 (References Jesus): After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

John 7:4 (Parallel theme): For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.

2 Chronicles 13:19 (Parallel theme): And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Beth-el with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim with the towns thereof.

