

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	παρρησία	περιεπάτει	ἐν
Jesus	therefore	no more	openly	walked	among	
G2424	G3767	G3756 G2089	G3954	G4043	G1722	
τοῖς	Ἰουδαίοις	ἀλλὰ	ἀπῆλθεν	ἐκεῖθεν	εἰς	τὴν χώραν
but	the Jews	but	went	thence	into	a country
G3588	G2453	G235	G565	G1564	G1519	G3588 G5561
ἐγγὺς	τῆς	ἐρήμου	εἰς	Ἐφραὶμ	λεγομένην	πόλιν
near	to the wilderness	into	Ephraim	called	a city	
G1451	G3588	G2048	G1519	G2187	G3004	G4172
κακεῖ	διέτριβεν	μετὰ	τῶν	μαθητῶν	αὐτοῦ	
and there	continued	with	disciples			
G2546	G1304	G3326	G3588 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.

