

# John 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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. The brothers' reasoning reveals worldly logic about fame and influence. Their 'for' (gar) introduces flawed reasoning: public figures don't act secretly if seeking recognition. The phrase 'seeketh to be known openly' (*zētei autos en parrēsia einai*) assumes Jesus wants publicity and acclaim. The conditional 'if thou do these things' questions whether Jesus's works are real or whether He's willing to prove them publicly. 'Shew thyself to the world' (*phanerōson seauton tō kosmō*) employs imperative, commanding Jesus to reveal Himself globally. This reflects satanic temptation logic (Matthew 4:5-7): prove yourself publicly, gain quick acclaim, shortcut suffering. Reformed theology emphasizes God's kingdom advances through weakness and hiddenness, not worldly power displays.

## Historical Context

This echoes Satan's temple temptation: publicly demonstrate divine power to gain instant recognition (Matthew 4:5-6). The brothers' advice reflects first-century Jewish expectation that Messiah would appear suddenly with overwhelming power, defeating Rome and establishing visible kingdom. Jesus consistently rejected this pathway, knowing His mission required suffering, death, and resurrection before glorification. The pressure for public validation continues throughout history—religious movements constantly tempted to seek worldly acclaim, political power,

or cultural influence rather than faithful gospel ministry. The early church initially struggled with this (Acts 1:6), expecting immediate political kingdom. Only gradually did they understand God's kingdom advances through suffering witness, not coercive power.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does worldly logic about influence and success differ from God's kingdom methods?
2. What modern pressures tempt the church to seek worldly acclaim rather than faithful obedience?
3. Why did God choose the pathway of suffering and hiddenness for Christ's mission?

## Interlinear Text

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οὐδεὶς	γάρ	ἐν	κρυπτῷ	τι	ποιεῖς	καὶ	ζητεῖ
there is no man	For	in	secret	any thing	that doeth	and	seeketh
G3762	G1063	G1722	G2927	G5100	G4160	G2532	G2212

αὐτὸς	ἐν	παρόρθησίᾳ	εῖναι	εἰ	ταῦτα	ποιεῖς
he himself	in	G3954	to be	If	these things	that doeth
G846	G1722		G1511	G1487	G5023	G4160

φανέρωσον	σεαυτὸν	τῷ	κόσμῳ
shew	thyself	G3588	to the world
G5319	G4572		G2889

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 18:20** (Parallel theme): Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

**Matthew 23:5** (Parallel theme): But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

**Matthew 6:5** (Parallel theme): And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

**Luke 6:45** (Parallel theme): A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

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