

Luke 8:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

Analysis

For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. Jesus grounds the lamp teaching in an eschatological principle: ultimate revelation of all things. The parallel construction emphasizes totality—**nothing secret** (oudēn krypton, οὐδὲν κρυπτόν) and **nothing hid** (apokryphon, ἀπόκρυφον) both speak to currently concealed realities. Both will be **made manifest** (phaneron genētai, φανερόν γένηται) and **known and come abroad** (gnōsthē kai eis phaneron elthē, γνωσθῇ καὶ εἰς φανερόν ἔλθῃ)—comprehensive public exposure.

This has dual application:

1. God's truth, currently hidden from many (v. 10), will ultimately be revealed universally
2. Human secrets—thoughts, motives, deeds—will be exposed at judgment (Romans 2:16, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:10).

The principle encourages disciples: though the gospel seems hidden now, God will vindicate it. It also warns: secret sins will be revealed, so live transparently before God. The connection to verse 16 is clear—the lamp (gospel truth) cannot ultimately be hidden; God will ensure its full revelation.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke in an honor-shame culture where reputation and public appearance mattered supremely. Many religious leaders maintained outward piety while harboring private hypocrisy (Luke 11:39-44, 12:1-3)—a practice Jesus condemned relentlessly. The Pharisees' secret plots against Jesus would eventually be exposed. The disciples' private instruction about the kingdom would later be proclaimed publicly (Acts 1-28). In Luke 12:2-3, Jesus makes the same point explicitly: 'For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light.' For early Christians facing persecution, this promised ultimate vindication—truth would triumph, and their enemies' wickedness would be exposed. For hypocrites, it warned of certain judgment when God reveals all secrets.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the certainty that 'nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest' affect the way you live privately?
2. What comfort does this verse offer to believers whose faithfulness is currently unrecognized or whose enemies seem to prosper?
3. How should awareness of ultimate revelation shape our evangelistic urgency—knowing that God will fully reveal His truth?

Interlinear Text

οὐ γάρ ἐστιν κρυπτὸν ὃ οὐ φανερόν γενήσεται
not For is secret that not manifest be made
G3756 G1063 G2076 G2927 G3739 G3756 G5318 G1096

οὐδὲ ἀπόκρυφον ὃ οὐ γνωσθήσεται, καὶ εἰς
neither any thing hid that not be known and abroad
G3761 G614 G3739 G3756 G1097 G2532 G1519

φανερόν ἔλθῃ
manifest come
G5318 G2064

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:26 (Parallel theme): Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

Mark 4:22 (Parallel theme): For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (Parallel theme): For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.