

Luke 8:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.

Analysis

And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John (έλθων δὲ εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν οὐκ ἀφῆκεν εἰσελθεῖν τινα σὺν αὐτῷ εἰ μὴ Πέτρον καὶ Ἰωάννην καὶ Ἰάκωβον)—Jesus deliberately limits the witnesses to his 'inner circle,' the same three who will witness the Transfiguration (9:28) and Gethsemane agony (Mark 14:33). The verb aphiēmi (suffered, permitted) indicates Jesus's sovereign control over who observes this miracle.

This selective disclosure reveals Jesus's pedagogical wisdom—some revelations of divine power require spiritual maturity to properly interpret. **And the father and the mother of the maiden**—Luke's medical precision (he includes details about Jairus and his wife) reflects his attention to human dimensions of the narrative. The parents' inclusion ensures credible testimony to their daughter's actual death and subsequent resurrection.

Historical Context

In first-century Jewish mourning customs, the entire community would gather at a death, with professional mourners (often women) hired to wail and play flutes. Jesus's restriction of the crowd to just five witnesses (the three disciples plus two parents) was highly unusual and would have been considered socially inappropriate, demonstrating his authority over social conventions when divine purposes required privacy.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why might Jesus limit witnesses to his most powerful miracles—what spiritual principle about revelation and readiness does this illustrate?
2. How do you respond when God works in 'private' ways that cannot be publicly validated or vindicated to skeptics?
3. What might it mean for your spiritual formation that Jesus reveals different aspects of himself to different people at different times?

Interlinear Text

εἰσελθεῖν δὲ εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν οὐκ ἀφῆκεν εἰσελθεῖν
to go in And into the house no he suffered to go in
G1525 G1161 G1519 G3588 G3614 G3756 G863 G1525

οὐδένα εἰ μὴ Πέτρον καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην καὶ
man G1487 G3361 Peter and James and John and
G3762 G4074 G2532 G2385 G2532 G2491 G2532

τὸν πατέρα τῆς παιδὸς καὶ τὴν μητέρα
the father of the maiden and the mother
G3588 G3588 G3816 G2532 G3588 G3384

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 42:2 (Parallel theme): He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

Mark 14:33 (References Peter): And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

Luke 9:28 (References Peter): And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.

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