

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 (ἐλθὼν 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 G1525	And G1161	into G1519	the house G3588 G3614	no G3756	he suffered G863	to go in G1525		
οὐδένα	εἰ	μὴ	Πέτρον	καὶ	Ἰάκωβον	καὶ	Ἰωάννην	καὶ
man G3762	G1487	G3361	Peter G4074	and G2532	James G2385	and G2532	John G2491	and G2532
τὸν	πατέρα	τῆς	παιδὸς	καὶ	τὴν	μητέρα		
G3588	the father G3962	G3588	of the maiden G3816	and G2532	G3588	the mother 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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