

Luke 8:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

Analysis

And her parents were astonished (καὶ ἐξέστησαν οἱ γονεῖς αὐτῆς)—the verb *existēmi* (astonished, amazed) literally means 'to stand outside oneself,' indicating overwhelming shock. Even Jairus, who demonstrated faith by seeking Jesus (v.41), is stunned by the actualization of resurrection. Faith believes for the miracle, but witnessing it exceeds comprehension.

But he charged them that they should tell no man what was done (ὁ δὲ παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς μηδενὶ εἰπεῖν τὸ γεγονός)—Jesus's command to silence (*parangellō*, to command strictly) seems paradoxical given the publicity of the miracle. This 'messianic secret' motif in Luke reflects Jesus's strategic management of his reputation—premature political messianism could derail his mission. He came to die as the suffering servant before being revealed as conquering king. The resurrection miracle must not trigger popular revolt or forced coronation before Jerusalem and the cross. Yet the command proves impossible to fully obey—the girl's resurrection would be evident to all who knew of her death.

Historical Context

In first-century Galilee, messianic expectations were politically charged—many anticipated a military deliverer to overthrow Rome. Powerful miracles like raising the dead could catalyze insurrection. Jesus's silencing commands throughout Luke's Gospel reflect his deliberate avoidance of political messianism until the

proper time. He would enter Jerusalem as king (19:38), but only after teaching his disciples the necessity of the cross.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why might authentic miracles sometimes need to be held in confidence rather than immediately publicized—what does this teach about wisdom in testimony?
2. How do you process the tension between amazing answers to prayer (astonishment) and continued trust in God's character?
3. In what ways might premature publicity of God's work derail his larger purposes in your life or ministry?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐξέστησαν	οἱ	γονεῖς	αὐτοῖς	ὁ	δὲ	παρήγγειλεν
And	were astonished	G3588	parents	her	G3588	but	he charged
G2532	G1839		G1118	G846		G1161	G3853

αὐτοῖς	μηδενὶ	εἰπεῖν	τὸ	γεγονός
her	no man	that they should tell	G3588	what was done
G846	G3367	G2036		G1096

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 8:4 (Parallel theme): And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Matthew 9:30 (Parallel theme): And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

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