

# 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

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**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** (οὐδὲ 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

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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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

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

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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

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

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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