

Luke 9:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen.

Analysis

And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen. After the Father's voice declared, "This is my beloved Son: hear him" (v. 35), the glory vanished—heurethē Iēsous monos (εὐρέθη Ἰησοῦς μόνος, "Jesus was found alone"). The verb heurethē (was found) suggests the cloud lifted and Jesus stood solitary—Moses and Elijah were gone, the radiance faded. This emphasizes Christ's supremacy—Law and Prophets testified to Him, then departed, leaving only Jesus. He alone is the final revelation (Hebrews 1:1-2).

The phrase **they kept it close** (esigēsan, ἐσίγησαν, "they were silent") indicates deliberate silence—not confusion but obedience. Mark 9:9 records Jesus commanded them to tell no one until after the resurrection. The reason: **in those days** (ἐν ἐκείναις ταῖς ἡμέραις)—before the cross and resurrection, proclaiming Jesus' glory would fuel false Messianic expectations of political revolution. Only after resurrection would the suffering-then-glory pattern be comprehensible. The disciples' obedient silence protected the gospel from distortion.

Historical Context

The Messianic secret is a recurring theme in the Gospels—Jesus commanded silence about His identity and miracles to prevent premature popular movements. First-century Jewish Messianic expectations were militaristic and nationalistic—

Messiah would overthrow Rome and restore David's kingdom. If crowds learned Jesus was the glorified Messiah before He explained the cross, they would attempt to make Him king by force (John 6:15). The disciples themselves struggled to accept a suffering Messiah (Peter rebuked Jesus for predicting death, Matthew 16:22). Only after resurrection did they understand—Messiah must suffer before reigning (Luke 24:25-27). The Transfiguration sustained the inner three through the crucifixion trauma and validated their post-resurrection preaching.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the disappearance of Moses and Elijah, leaving Jesus alone, teach about His supremacy over Law and Prophets?
2. Why did Jesus command silence about the Transfiguration until after the resurrection, and what does this teach about proper gospel proclamation?
3. How does the pattern of suffering-then-glory revealed in the Transfiguration correct contemporary expectations of Christianity without the cross?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐν τῷ γενέσθαι τὴν φωνὴν εὑρέθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς
And in G3588 G1096 when the voice was found G3588 G2147 G3588
G2532 G1722 G5456 G2147 G2424

μόνος καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐσίγησαν καὶ οὐδὲν ἀπήγγειλαν ἐν
alone And they kept it close And any told in
G3441 G2532 G846 G4601 G2532 G3762 G518 G1722

ἐκείναις ταῖς ἡμέραις οὐδὲν ὅν ἐώρακασιν
those G3588 days any of those things which they had seen
G1565 G2250 G3762 G3739 G3708

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 17:9 (References Jesus): And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

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