

Mark 1:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;

Analysis

Christ's 'straitly charged' (Greek: *embrimaomai*, sternly warned with emotion) seems paradoxical—why command silence after such a public miracle? This reflects the 'Messianic secret' theme in Mark: Christ controlled the timing and nature of His revelation to prevent premature political messianic movements. His stern warning shows the seriousness of following His instructions precisely, even when they seem counterintuitive.

Historical Context

Popular messianic expectations in first-century Judaism centered on military deliverance from Rome. A leper's healing would fuel dangerous political speculation about a miracle-working deliverer. Christ's ministry required careful management to avoid premature confrontation with authorities before His appointed time.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why would Christ sometimes want His miracles kept quiet, and what does this teach us about God's timing?
2. How does Christ's stern warning challenge our assumption that more publicity always serves God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐμβριμησάμενος	αὐτόν	εὐθέως	ἐξέβαλεν	αὐτόν
And	he straitly charged	him	and forthwith	away	him
G2532	G1690	G846	G2112	G1544	G846

Additional Cross-References

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

Mark 5:43 (Parallel theme): And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

Mark 3:12 (Parallel theme): And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.

Mark 7:36 (Parallel theme): And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;

Luke 8:56 (Parallel theme): And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.