

Mark 7:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

He charged them that they should tell no man—Jesus repeatedly commanded silence after healings, the messianic secret motif. Several explanations:

1. avoiding premature confrontation before His appointed hour
2. popular messianic expectations focused on political liberation from Rome rather than spiritual salvation
3. Jesus prioritized teaching and relationship over signs. **But the more he charged them, so much the more they published it**—the more Jesus commanded silence, the more zealously they proclaimed.

The Greek verb means heralded—gospel preaching terminology. They could not contain witness. This illustrates gospel power: genuine Christ encounter produces irrepressible testimony. The healed cannot stay silent (Acts 4:20).

Historical Context

First-century Palestine seethed with messianic expectation and revolutionary fervor. Multiple pretenders arose promising to overthrow Rome. If Jesus was proclaimed Messiah-miracle-worker, crowds would force Him into that mold (John 6:15). Such movements provoked Roman crackdowns. Jesus's timing was providential—proclaimed Messiah during Passion Week when the cross was imminent, after teaching clarified the kingdom's spiritual nature.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why does genuine Christ encounter produce irrepressible witness versus dutiful evangelism lacking transformation?
2. What does Jesus's concern about premature publicity teach about popularity and faithful ministry?
3. How can you balance avoiding celebrity with Christ's command to publicly witness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ διεστέλλετο αὐτοῖς ἵνα μηδενὶ εἰπωσιν· ὅσον
And **he charged** **them** **that** **no man** **they should tell** **the more**
G2532 G1291 G846 G2443 G3367 G2036 G3745

δὲ αὐτοῖς αὐτοῖς διεστέλλετο μᾶλλον περισσότερον
but **them** **them** **he charged** **so much the more** **a great deal**
G1161 G846 G846 G1291 G3123 G4054

ἐκήρυσσον
they published
G2784

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.

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

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 8:26 (Parallel theme): And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.

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