

# Mark 8:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.

## Analysis

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**Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town**—Jesus's command for silence (variations of which appear throughout Mark as the 'messianic secret') reflects careful timing regarding public messianic claims. The Greek construction *mēde eis tēn kōmēn eiselthēs* (μηδὲ εἰς τὴν κώμην εἰσέλθης, 'neither enter into the village') with *mēde eipēs tini* (μηδὲ εἴπης τινὶ, 'nor tell anyone') creates emphatic prohibition.

This concealment strategy operates on multiple levels:

1. preventing premature political messianism before the cross
2. avoiding hostile attention from authorities
3. maintaining focus on teaching rather than healing fame.

Bethsaida's persistent unbelief (Matthew 11:21) makes it particularly inappropriate for testimony. The healed man's obedience—being sent home rather than into town—contrasts with the Gerasene demoniac who was commissioned to tell (Mark 5:19), showing Jesus's varied strategies depending on context and audience receptivity.

## Historical Context

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First-century Jewish messianic expectations centered on military-political deliverance from Rome, not a suffering servant. Premature public messianic claims could trigger Roman suppression and popular revolt, forcing Jesus's hand before

His appointed hour. The command to silence appears frequently in Mark's Gospel, preserving Jesus's control over the revelation timeline.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. When has God called you to quiet faithfulness rather than public testimony? How did you respond?
2. What does Jesus's context-sensitive approach (silence here, proclamation in Mark 5:19) teach about wisdom in evangelism?
3. How do you balance the call to 'tell what God has done' with Jesus's example of strategic restraint?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἀπέστειλεν αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ λέγων,

**And** **away** **him** **into** **G3588** **house** **him** **saying**

G2532 G649 G846 G1519 G3624 G846 G3004

Μηδὲ εἰς τὴν κώμη εἰσέλθης Μηδὲ εἴπης τινὶ ἐν

**Neither** **into** **G3588** **the town** **go** **Neither** **tell** **it to any** **in**

G3366 G1519 G2968 G1525 G3366 G2036 G5100 G1722

τῇ κώμῃ

G3588 **the town**

G2968

## 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.

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