

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

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 εἰσελθῆς, 'neither enter into the village') with *mēde eipēs tini* (μηδὲ εἶπῃς 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

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

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	κώμην	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

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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