

Mark 9:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it.

Analysis

After the exorcism, 'they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it' (ἐξελθόντες ἐκεῖθεν παρεπορεύοντο διὰ τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελεν ἵνα τις γνοῖ). Jesus avoided publicity, continuing the 'messianic secret' theme. His secrecy had strategic purpose: focusing on disciple training rather than popular acclaim. The phrase 'passed through' (pareporeuonto, παρεπορεύοντο) suggests deliberate travel without public ministry stops. Jesus was journeying toward Jerusalem and death (v. 31), and needed focused time to prepare disciples for the coming crisis. This demonstrates Jesus' priorities—deep discipleship over broad popularity. Effective ministry requires seasons of withdrawal for intensive teaching, not constant public activity.

Historical Context

Galilee was Jesus' primary ministry region, where His fame was greatest (Mark 1:28). Deliberately avoiding publicity while passing through His home territory shows Jesus' determination to prioritize disciple preparation. First-century Palestine had no privacy—traveling rabbis attracted crowds wherever they went. Jesus' desire 'that no one should know' indicates He took deliberate measures to avoid attention, perhaps traveling quickly or staying with friends privately. This occurred during Jesus' final months before crucifixion. The urgency of preparing disciples for His death and resurrection superseded popular ministry. Luke 9:51 states Jesus 'steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem'—His focus was singular.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' withdrawal from public ministry to focus on disciple training challenge contemporary emphases on numerical growth over depth?
2. What does Jesus' strategic avoidance of publicity teach about seasons when ministry requires focused preparation rather than broad outreach?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	ἐκεῖθεν	ἐξελθόντες	παρεπορεύοντο	διὰ	τῆς
And	thence	they departed	and passed	through	G3588
G2532	G1564	G1831	G3899	G1223	
Γαλιλαίας	Καὶ	οὐκ	ἤθελεν	ἵνα	τις
Galilee	And	not	he would	that	any man
G1056	G2532	G3756	G2309	G2443	G5100
					should know
					G1097

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