

Mark 9:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

Analysis

Jesus corrected: 'Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me' (Μὴ κωλύετε αὐτόν· οὐδεὶς γάρ ἐστιν ὃς ποιήσει δύναμιν ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματί μου καὶ δυνήσεται ταχὺ κακολογῆσαί με). Jesus' logic: genuine miracles performed in His name demonstrate authentic relationship, making it unlikely the person would 'speak evil' (kakologēsai, κακολογῆσαί, slander or oppose). Ministry done in Jesus' name, with His power, proves genuine connection. Jesus doesn't require organizational membership for ministry validity—He looks at heart alignment and effective kingdom work. This teaches theological breadth: affirm all who genuinely advance Christ's kingdom, even if their methods or structures differ from ours. However, this isn't blanket approval—miracles must be 'in my name' (by Jesus' authority) and produce kingdom results. False teachers perform signs (Matthew 7:22-23; 24:24) but lack genuine submission to Christ.

Historical Context

The phrase 'do a miracle in my name' (poiēsei dynamin epi tō onomati mou) indicates the person invoked Jesus' authority and experienced genuine power—not magical manipulation but authentic spiritual authority. This challenges assumptions about who has legitimate ministry. Numbers 11:26-29 records similar incident: two men prophesied in Israel's camp though not with the elders at the tabernacle; Joshua wanted Moses to stop them, but Moses said, 'Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets!' Jesus echoes this attitude. Early church faced

similar issues (Philippians 1:15-18)—some preached Christ from wrong motives, yet Paul rejoiced that Christ was proclaimed. The criterion is faithful proclamation and genuine kingdom work, not organizational affiliation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' acceptance of ministry outside His immediate circle challenge our tendency toward sectarian exclusivism?
2. What criteria should we use to evaluate ministry—organizational affiliation or genuine advancement of Christ's kingdom in His name?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπεν	Μὴ	κωλύετε	αὐτόν	οὐδεὶς	γάρ
G3588	But	Jesus	said	not	Forbid	him	no man	for
	G1161	G2424	G2036	G3361	G2967	G846	G3762	G1063
ἐστίν	ὃς	ποιήσει	δύναμιν	ἐπὶ	τῷ	ὀνόματί	μου	καὶ
there is	which	shall do	a miracle	in	G3588	name	my	that
G2076	G3739	G4160	G1411	G1909		G3686	G3450	G2532
δυνήσεται	ταχὺ	κακολογῆσαί	με·					
can	lightly	speak evil	of me					
G1410	G5035	G2551	G3165					

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 12:3 (References Jesus): Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

