

# Matthew 8:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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Jesus' command to 'tell no man' seems puzzling but reflects His desire to avoid premature messianic expectations and political movements that would interfere with His mission to the cross. The instruction to 'shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded' demonstrates Christ's respect for Mosaic law and priestly authority while that system remained valid. This also provided official verification of the miracle, serving 'for a testimony unto them'—either for belief or condemnation depending on response.

## Historical Context

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Leviticus 14 prescribed elaborate cleansing rituals for healed lepers requiring priestly examination and sacrifices. This would provide official verification that genuine healing occurred. Jesus honored Torah's ceremonial law while it remained in force before His death established the New Covenant (Hebrews 7-10).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. Why did Jesus sometimes command silence about His miracles rather than publicizing them widely?
2. What does Christ's honoring of Mosaic law teach about His relationship to the Old Testament and its fulfillment in Him?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	λέγει	αὐτοῖς	ο	Ἰησοῦς,	Ὥρα	μηδενὶ	εἴπης,	ἀλλ'
And	saith	unto him	G3588	Jesus	See	no man	thou tell	but
G2532	G3004	G846		G2424	G3708	G3367	G2036	G235
Ὕπαγε,	σεαυτὸν	δεῖξον	τῷ	ἱερεῖ	καὶ	προσένεγκε	τὸ	
go thy way	thyselv	shew	G3588	to the priest	And	offer		G3588
G5217	G4572	G1166		G2409	G2532	G4374		
δῶρον	ο	προσέταξεν	Μωσῆς,	εἰς	μαρτύριον	αὐτοῖς		
the gift	G3739	commanded	that Moses	for	a testimony	unto him		
G1435		G4367	G3475	G1519	G3142	G846		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 17:14** (Parallel theme): And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

**Luke 5:14** (Witness): And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

**Mark 7:36** (Parallel theme): 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;

**Matthew 9:30** (References Jesus): And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

**Mark 6:11** (Witness): And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

**Isaiah 42:21** (Parallel theme): The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.

**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.

**Matthew 5:17** (Parallel theme): Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

**Matthew 10:18** (Witness): And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

**Matthew 6:1** (Parallel theme): Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.