

Matthew 9:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

Analysis

After healing the two blind men, Jesus 'straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it' (ενεβριμησατο αυτοις ο Ιησους λεγων Ορατε μηδεις γινωσκετω). The verb ενεβριμησατο (enebrēmēsato) means 'sternly warned' or 'charged with strong emotion'—this is forceful prohibition, not gentle suggestion. Why command silence about such clear proof of messiahship? Several reasons:

1. Jesus seeks to prevent being reduced to miracle-worker rather than Messiah and teacher
2. mounting fame brings increasing opposition and danger
3. messianic expectations were politicized and revolutionary—Jesus must define messiahship through teaching, not just power
4. the time for full revelation hasn't yet come.

This 'messianic secret' pattern appears throughout the Gospels, showing Jesus carefully controlling the timing and framing of His messianic claims.

Historical Context

Jewish messianic expectations in the first century were predominantly political and military—Messiah would overthrow Rome, restore David's kingdom, and establish Israel's glory. Miracle-working intensified these expectations. Jesus needed to redefine messiahship through the cross before full revelation. Premature proclamation would trigger Roman suppression and religious opposition before Jesus completed His teaching ministry. The 'messianic secret' functioned to control

revelation's timing until the cross and resurrection could properly interpret Jesus' identity.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus sometimes prohibit testimony about His miracles?
2. How do we balance witnessing to Jesus with respecting His wisdom about timing and method?
3. What does the 'messianic secret' teach about Jesus' careful control of His mission's unfolding?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀνεώχθησαν	αὐτοῖς	οἱ	όφθαλμοί	καὶ	ἐνεβριμησατο	
And	were opened		their	G3588	eyes	And	straitly charged
G2532	G455		G846		G3788	G2532	G1690
αὐτοῖς	ο	Ἰησοῦς	λέγων,	Ὄρατε	μηδεὶς	γινωσκέτω	
their	G3588	Jesus	saying	See	that no man	know	
G846		G2424	G3004	G3708	G3367	G1097	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 8:4 (References Jesus): 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.

Luke 5:14 (Parallel theme): 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 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 17:9 (References Jesus): And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

Matthew 12:16 (Parallel theme): And charged them that they should not make him known:

Luke 8:56 (Parallel theme): And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.