

Points to Ponder: Why did Jesus tell people not to let others know what He had done for them?

Why in the bible, Jesus instructed other people to keep certain miracles or acts in a quiet way? These came from the stories in the New Testament. Let's look in some of the verse that reflect Jesus's actions and teachings related to concealing His identity and miracles:

- Bible Verse 1 (Mark 1:43-44/NIV)

Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

This verse from the book of Mark refers to Jesus healing a man with leprosy and instructing him not to tell anyone about the miracle. Instead as the story continues, the healed man is directed to follow the Law of Moses as a testimony to the priests.

- Bible Verse 2 (Mark 3:11-12/NIV)

Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.

This another verse from the book of Mark, Jesus silences the demons who recognize Him as the Son of God, emphasizes His control over the timing and the manner of His public revelation.

- Bible Verse 3 (Mark 5:43/ NIV)

He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

This another verse from the book of Mark portrays the story of Jesus raising Jairus's daughter from the dead. Jesus instructed those present not to tell anyone about the miracle.

- Bible Verse 4 (Matthew 16:20/ NIV)

Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This verse from the book of Matthew highlights Jesus's request for His disciples to refrain from revealing His identity as the Messiah.

- Bible Verse 5 (John 6:15/NIV)

Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

After performing the miracle of feeding the 5,00, Jesus retreats to avoid the crowd's attempt to make Him a political king, demonstrating His desire to control the nature and timing of His revelation.

From Christian POV

From a Christian perspective, these stories can be understood in several points:

Point 1: Avoiding Misunderstanding: Jesus wanted to prevent people from having misunderstandings about His mission. During His ministry, many people were expecting a political or military Messiah who would overthrow the Roman rule. The Israelites experienced frequent subjugation and oppression by the Roman rule. Many Jews longed for liberation from Roman oppression. The expectation of a political messiah who would deliver them from these rulers and restore an independent kingdom was rooted in their historical experiences of suffering and longing for freedom.

The Hebrew Scriptures particularly in the OT (Old Testament), contain various prophecies about a future anointed king or messiah who would come to restore Israel and bring about a time of peace and justice. Specific verses from the book of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah speak of a future ruler who would lead with righteousness and establish a kingdom of justice. This messianic expectation became a central part of Jewish hope. By asking people to remain silent, Jesus aimed to avoid these misinterpretations and ensure that His message about the Kingdom of God and Salvation wasn't obscured by popular but mistaken expectations.

Point 2: A deep focus on His teaching: By limiting public acknowledgement of His miracles, Jesus could emphasize His teachings rather than the miracles themselves. The miracles were signs of His divine authority and compassion for people, but the core of His message was about repentance, the Kingdom of God, and a personal relationship with God. These actions from Him can be viewed as an act of humility in the sense that He was focused on fulfilling His mission rather than seeking personal glory or immediate recognition. His primary concern was to accomplish His Father's will rather than to gain praise or elevate His own status.

As stated in the bible, in the book of 1 John 2:16, the "pride of life" is one of the three temptations listed alongside the "lust of the eyes", and the "lust of the flesh." By definition, this definition refers to an arrogance and self-assertion that values personal glory and status above all else.

1 John 2:16 (NIV)

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Jesus's refusal to openly proclaim His miracles or His identity can be contrasted with the concept of pride of life. By not seeking to elevate Himself through His works, he demonstrates a rejection of the prideful desire for public acclaim. Instead, He humbles Himself by prioritizing obedience to God's will and the ultimate purpose of His mission over self-promotion.

John 8:23 strengthens the preceding verse from 1 John 2:16, that states that:

"But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."

In this verse, Jesus distinguishes His origin and nature from those who are "of this world," emphasizing His divine origin and heavenly mission.

His humility can be seen in Philippians 2:7-8:

"rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature[a] of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!"

The passage underscores Jesus humility, showing that His entire life and mission were characterized by self-emptying and submission, rather than seeking personal elevation.

SCJ tactics

Interpretations of Jesus's actions as wisdom of hiding is being used by Shincheonji to fit their specific theological frameworks or teachings and can be shown by following points.

Point A: Secret Knowledge: SCJ emphasize the idea of secret or esoteric knowledge that is revealed only to a select few or at a specific timing. They use Jesus's actions as a precedent for their belief that certain spiritual insights or teachings are reserved for those who are spiritually prepared or have been initiated into their group's teachings. That's why there is a rigorous system of wanting a new member to undergo a months-long bible study and they will reveal their name and nature once you finished attending them.

Point B: Mystical or Symbolic Interpretation: Jesus's instructions can also be seen as symbolic, with the idea that there is a deeper, hidden meaning behind His actions that only spiritually advanced or initiated can understand. This aligns with the belief that divine truths are often hidden and require special insight to be comprehended fully. In case of SCJ it's the figurative language and the teachings that you must learn the parables and their meanings to understand the bible in entirety.

From Secular POV

Examining the idea of secrecy and the proper timing from secular POV can help us understand perspectives on how SCJ works.

Point A: Strategic communication: In a secular context, the idea of controlling the timing and scope of information is often seen as a strategic communication tactic. This approach can be used in other various fields as well such as in politics, business, and the media, in order to influence public perception and manage the narrative effectively.

Point B: Building Anticipation: By withholding full details about the "New John" or the "Promised Pastor" until the appropriate time, SCJ can build a sense of anticipation and importance around the revelation. This strategy can enhance the perceived significance of their leader/ chairman, making the eventual revelation more impactful. Anticipation can also prepare the people mentally and emotionally, making them more receptive when the full details are finally disclosed.