

THE MESSIANIC SECRET

Jacob Hudgins

“And he strictly ordered them not to make him known” (Mark 3:12). This ties in with other passages where Jesus forbids people telling about Him and His deeds (Mark 1:44, 5:43, 7:36, 8:30, Matthew 9:30). This strikes us as so strange. If God is acting decisively in history and bringing good news for man, why restrict the message?

One reason is witnesses. Jesus doesn't need or want the testimony of demons, as in this passage. The demons will shortly become a problem (Mark 3:22) as onlookers mistakenly think He is in league with Satan. When the time is right, Jesus will have the witnesses He chooses, but in this case silence is preferable. This, however, doesn't account for telling the healed to be quiet.

Another reason is managing his ministry. Jesus tells the healed leper not to tell anyone (Mark 1:44). When He tells anyway, the crowds gather so that Jesus *“could no longer openly enter a town”* (Mark 1:45). Jesus' popularity is sometimes a problem for His own peace. It also sometimes inhibits healings—like the paralytic who can't get to Him, Bartimaeus who is silenced by the crowds, or even Zacchaeus who must climb a tree to see him. There will come a time when the word spreads all over, but Jesus manages His ministry until then.

Another reason for the secrecy is approach. Matthew ties the command of silence to his approach as Messiah (Matthew 12:16-21), especially the idea that *“he will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets”* (Matthew 12:19). Jesus is not just seeking a crowd or more concerned about numbers than people. He wants to encourage faith on a personal level.

After his resurrection, things change. Now the gospel is preached and constraints are lifted. Praise God!

HOLY SPIRIT GUIDANCE

Patrick Donahue

Those whom the Holy Spirit would guide into all the truth (John 16:13) were those with Jesus while he was on earth (John 14:26) from the beginning (15:26-27), those who were to give us the word (the New Testament) so all the rest of us may believe (John 17:20). It is not talking about you and me, except indirectly through the apostles' word.

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Do not disparage risk-taking. While some complain that it was simply foolish to even approach such danger, it is important to recall that nearly every aspect of ordinary, everyday, modern human behavior was once a formidable threat to life; automotive travel, rail travel, air travel, and interaction with electricity in any form all demanded significant risks by innovators, inventors, developers, and entrepreneurs at multiple points in history. And though the seafloor where Titanic rests is an unusual destination, famed filmmaker, inventor, and deepwater explorer James Cameron has personally been there 33 times without injury, and has gone much further, breaking records by traveling to the Mariana Trench, at triple the depth where the Titanic shipwreck is. Improving life involves innovation and that demands risk. *“The lazy man says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!’”* (Proverbs 22:13). Letting fear of the worst-case scenario inhibit action is, in some cases, sinful laziness. Generally speaking, those willing to accept the risk others won't deserve some admiration.

Confront flagrant disregard for safety. While risk-taking can be admirable, the hazards must be calculated and managed. Moreover, they ought to be assumed only by those who are willing and fully informed. Experts in the field of deepwater submergence have told the public they were forthright with OceanGate about concerns for the integrity of their Titan submersible, stating the carbon-fiber material it was constructed of could not withstand the pressure it would be subjected to and lamenting that CEO Stockton Rush, who perished aboard Titan's fatal voyage, refused to subject his fleet to third-party certification. If these claims prove factual, then responsible parties were dangerously unwise. *“The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it”* (Proverbs 27:12 ESV).

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"Playing Tetris has taught me a valuable life lesson: if you try to fit in, you'll disappear."

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 25

JUNE 25TH, 2023

CATASTROPHE ON THE SEAFLOOR

Bryan Matthew Dockens

More than 121 years after the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank in the Atlantic with 1,517 fatalities, five dead have been added to the wreckage as the deepwater submersible Titan suffered a catastrophic implosion. Reactions varied in the days between OceanGate losing contact with its craft and the discovery of its wreckage. Reasonable people might not be sure what to think of the disaster.

Compassion is in order. In a rush to be relevant on the internet, many people ridiculed the situation as soon as the news broke that the Titan had lost contact, days before its destruction had been confirmed. There is *"a time to weep and a time to laugh"* (Ecclesiastes 3:4) and they are completely opposite occasions. To mock the dead and dying is to laugh when weeping is the appropriate response, and thus scorn the will of God. Rather, it is the Lord's will to *"weep with those who weep"* (Romans 12:15). Since *"the Lord is very compassionate"* (James 5:11), any who claim allegiance to Him must learn compassion, too. Besides the mockery, there was also a rush to judgment, with folks expressing contempt for the victims of this disaster as if they somehow deserved what happened. *"Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath"* (James 1:19). If there is a valid reason to blame any of those who perished, that reason will remain valid after their families have time to grieve.

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