

Did Jesus hide? John 8:59

In the NKJV, John 8:59 reads like this: "Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." My translation reads like this: "Then they picked up stones to throw at Him;¹ but Jesus was concealed and went out of the temple, going through the middle of them; yes, that's how He got away!" The familiar "hid Himself" is not the best rendering here. Jesus did not try to hide behind a pillar, or whatever. He was surrounded by angry Jews with stones in their hands. Obviously they would have seen Him and started stoning. He became invisible and simply walked out, passing right through the middle of them. About half a percent of the Greek manuscripts, of objectively inferior quality (demonstrably so), omit "going through the middle of them; yes, that's how He got away" (as in NIV, NASB, LB, TEV, etc.). The 99.5% are doubtless correct, and supply an important detail.

¹ Since certain situations demanded a stoning, there were doubtless piles of ammunition placed strategically around the temple premises.