



Handout September 22, 2023

## Secrecy and Darkness!

### Luke 8:16-18

Welcome back and here we go!

Tonight, we are talking about a hard subject --- personal sin! I think we all are aware of our own.

Recently God has spoken to me about *secrets* --- and it wasn't good. You see the enemy dwells in darkness and wherever there are *secrets*, there is darkness. *Secrets* are meant to keep things hidden!

**Luke 8:16-18** *“No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore, take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”*

1. Following Jesus requires \_\_\_\_\_!

God has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light! Which means we must order our life in such a way that there is nothing we are hiding from others.

So, what exactly is a *secret*? And is it different from *private*?

*“Privacy”* --- personal boundaries about your life or about information shared with you.

*“Secrecy”* --- intentionally hiding information!

2. Secrecy is motivated by \_\_\_\_\_ --- \_\_\_\_\_ --- \_\_\_\_\_.

While *privacy* is motivated by respect for others and boundaries.

The problem here is God knows we hide things from people, as though them knowing is of great consequence and yet we do the same things openly in front of God.

**Psalm 90:8** *'You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.'*

3. We fear people's \_\_\_\_\_ more than God's \_\_\_\_\_.

**I Corinthians 4:5** *'Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.'*

You know the funny thing is we will judge others --- even guess at their *secrets*, as though we know them --- but we will not judge ourselves.

I want to encourage you to begin to isolate your secrets and remove them from your life.

Does this mean go blab to everyone your secret sins? NO! Of course not. Remember, we have the privacy of the priesthood. All confession is made to God.

**Proverbs 11:13** 'A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.'

Confession to others is often just gossip about self.

4. Repent and change \_\_\_\_\_!

Often, our *secrets* are to hide behaviors. If we are caught, we say "Don't tell anyone".

Why? Shame --- Fear --- Guilt.

And then, you are now a prisoner of darkness. Your secret is in the dark and you are huddled up with it!

So, what do we keep *secret*? What do you keep *secret*? What is it you don't want me to know? Or others?

*Secrets* also come in three flavors:

- A. Present hidden things
- B. Past indiscretions
- C. Indiscretions of others.

Here's where it gets tricky.

For (C), Indiscretions of others, this should slip into privacy. It is not your business unless it directly hurts others.

For (B), past indiscretions, these should be confessed and repented of and then forgotten.

And (A), present hidden things: The Word of God says these will be found out!!!

5. The solution is \_\_\_\_\_.

Again, how do we know the difference between a *secret* and being private?

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ will reveal darkness!

You know when you are doing wrong because the Holy Spirit will tell you.

*Secrets* never feel right or good. It always feels good when you do the right thing and are private.

Conviction --- the pricking of your conscience.

If you find yourself wanting to keep something hidden, the Word has promised it will come to light.

My advice to you: Get ahead of it. REPENT. CHANGE BEHAVIORS and FORGET the sin. Live in the LIGHT and in FORGIVENESS.

Let's pray and ask God to reveal the darkness and pray that we would have the strength to change!