

Intro.

- A. How would you define a SECRET? *“Something you tell one person at a time.”*
- B. From time to time, Jesus shared special “secrets” w/ disciples, not yet to be announced to all.
 1. Our text deals w/ 3 such *secrets*.
 2. If our lives are going to be all that God wants them to be, we need to understand & apply certain “secrets” in our own lives.

Discuss.**I. 1st Secret: SUFFERING LEADS TO GLORY, Mk. 8:27 – 9:13**

- A. (Good to know the setting --)
 1. Caesarea Philippi – located 25 mi. N. of Bethsaida, & at foot of Mt. Hermon.
 2. City named after Augustus Caesar & Herod Philip
 3. Marble temple dedicated to Augustus, dedicated to the glory of Rome (& long since faded into the past)
- B. An all-important question: *Who is Jesus?*
 1. Doesn't really matter who I am. (People preoccupied w/ what others are say about who they are => pride)
 2. What people believe & say re: who Jesus = makes difference! **Confession = understanding or confusion**
 - a. In Caesarea Philippi, citizens say, *Caesar is lord* = evidence that they were loyal Roman citizen
 - b. That confession might make their life w/ gov. official little easier, w/ buying & selling privileges, but that confession could not save them from their just punishment in eternal hell. **Jn. 8:21, 24**
 - c. Who Jesus was not a secret, but some still confused John the Baptist w/ Christ (*compare & contrast*)
 - d. Some confused Jeremiah & Jesus (men of sorrow, called men to repentance, rejected by own, & both condemned false religious leaders & hypocritical worship; persecuted by those in authority.
 - e. While Christ works & words supplied evidence that He = Messiah, Jews listened to mislead opinions.
 3. Peter's bold confession was w/o doubt or compromise!.....as should be our declaration of Jesus' name.
 4. Charge (**vs 30**): *tell no one* was to stay off political uprising that would have been premature.
- C. **vs. 31-38** need to remember word: **Confusion** resulted when Christ revealed *secret* => He would go to Jerusalem w/ them to die on cross.
 1. If Christ, why rejected by relig. leaders??? Why would they kill him??? Messiah was to defeat enemy.
 2. Peter rebuked Christ & became a momentary spokesman for Satan, **vs. 33**. (ignorant love hurts)
 3. Peter had not learned the connection between suffering & glory (c. **1 Pet. 1:6-8; 4:13-5:10**)
 4. Satan promises glory w/o suffering; God promises suffering transformed into glory.
 - a. Theological & a practical problem.
 - b. Lesson still needes to be learned by all. (**Jas. 1:2-4; 2 Cor. 12:10**)
 5. **Vs. 34** called crowds & taught them same lesson: *there is a price to pay for true discipleship!*
 - a. surrender selves completely to God
 - b. identify w/ Him (imitate His death = *baptism*) & (c) obediently follow Him
 - c. motivation must be pure: *for My sake & the Gospel's sake*, **vs. 35** – devotion & duty
 - d. discipleship = matter of investing our life rather than wasting it. (Can't buy lifetime back 1ce spent)
- D. Jesus kingdom = a 1st Cent. beginning. 1st there would be suffering, & then would come the glory!!! **9:1-8**
 1. The transformation of Jesus on the Mt. (Hermon?) = **confirmation** of the glory following suffering.
 - a. Moses represented the Law, & Elijah the prophets.....ALL of which pointed men to Christ.
 - b. *Transfigured = metamorphoo* (**c. Rom. 12:2**) -- a dramatic change...*by supernatural power*(Webster)
 - c. → Disciples almost missed it, being asleep (**Lk. 9:32**)
 - d. If you & I expect to bask in God's glory as on the Mt. top, then must walk thru valley of suffering now (**c. 1 Pet. 4:16**) → Secret to be kept until after the resurrection! (**Mk. 9:9**)
 2. **Correction (9:11-13)** re: coming of Elijah, which had reference to John Bapt. (**Mt. 17:11; c. Lk.1:16f**)
 - a. John's sufferings did not thwart God's plan, but fulfilled it.
 - b. Elijah suffering (c. **1 Kg.19:2, 10**- Ahab & Jezabel, & Baal) typified John's suffering (**Mk. 6:14-19**)

II. 2ND Secret: POWER COMES FROM FAITH, Mk. 9:14-29

- A. Returning to the other 9 apostles, Jesus found them embroiled in a debate they were losing regarding their failure to help a demonic.
1. Scribes questioned their failure (& they questioned their own failure! They had authority, c. **Mk.6:7, 13**).
 2. Notice the father's faith.
 - a. he brought his son to the disciples
 - b. He said to Jesus, *If You can do anything, take pity on us & help us*, **vs. 22**
 - c. **Vs. 24** *I do believe. Help my unbelief.*
 - d. Disciples also suffered f/ a degree of unbelief, c. **vs. 23**, lack of *prayer* = a symptom of unbelief.
- B. When trust ourselves instead of God, our lack of faith will often make failures of us!

III. No. 3: SERVICE LEADS TO HONOR, Mk. 9:30-50

- A. (Keep in mind, Jesus is leading his disciples to Jeru., all the while explaining what will happen to Him there)
1. Although "deeply grieved" (**Mt. 17:23**), not enough sorrow to set aside their jockeying for the position of *who is the gtest*. **Mk. 9:34**
 - a. The mt. excursion 3 of them had just been on may have added fuel to the fire.
 - b. What would Christ have to do to get them to see what they were doing, & how they should change???
 2. The object lesson Christ taught as He sat a child in the middle of them: the way to gtness = humility!
 - a. Humility???
 - b. *being your self, the best that you can, & then giving yourself to others.*
 - c. In Aramaic language, *child & servant* = the same word. → The *heart* of a child & attitude of faithful servant are one in the same.
- B. This (**vs. 38**)= when John asked for explanation concerning a stranger who cast out demons in Jesus' name.
1. John is defensive of the dedication of the apostles.
 - a. They had tried to stop this stranger because he was unknown to them, & he invoked Jesus' authority.
 - b. Jesus explained the stranger's success proved whose side he was on. (**Mk. 16:17-20; Heb. 2:1-4**)
 - c. To do something *in Jesus name* = to do that *by His authority*, **Col. 3:17**.
 - d. (In the name of Jesus ≥ just a verbal affirmation, c. **Ac. 19:13ff** sons of Sceva; **Mk. 7:6; Lk. 6:46**)
 2. To become gt. in God's kingdom one need not be able to perform miracles!
 - a. Something simple as giving a cup of water to someone thirsty is recognized by God. (trash, calls, cups)
 - b. Opposite equally true: *Offend a little one* (cause to stumble/sin) *better to drown in the sea.*
 3. Like heaven, hell is FOREVER, so be careful lest pride causes you to fall (c.**Prov. 16:18**)

Concl.

- A. 3 lessons Jesus taught in our text this p.m.
1. Whenever we surrender to Christ, related suffering will lead to glory.
 2. faith will produce power
 3. sacrificial service will lead to honor.
- B. In the gospel records, we can study some of the "secrets" of the past (...& present)
1. Surrender to Christ begins with faith in God that is so strong that one must change things in his life according to what the Lord has said, in obedience to His word.
 2. Since everyone is not following the Lord, we expect along the way to *suffer as a Christian*
 3. In view of an eternal reward, it is not really too difficult to make the commitment to becoming a living sacrifice in obedience to Christ in bapt.