

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 needs 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 lce spent)
- D. Jesus kingdom = a 1<sup>st</sup> Cent. beginning. 1<sup>st</sup> 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**)