



Sermon Series: Mysteries: The Greatest Stories Jesus Told, part 2

Sermon Title: Why Would Jesus Hide Truth?

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer, September 13, 2020

Matthew 13

Jesus' disciples ask an important question and he answers them.

Matthew 13:10,11

(Big Idea) Reject truth, and you may relinquish your ability to receive truth.

Raises 2 questions:

Question #1: Can someone become unable to grasp truth?

The answer: yes. In the first place, it requires spiritual insight to grasp eternal truth. The only way you can come to know Jesus is for the Spirit of God to open your eyes. 1 Corinthians 2:14

It is possible for a person to get to a place where God's Spirit will no longer strive with them. That's what happened with the religious leaders.

Matthew 12:22-24

Jesus has been remarkably patient with the religious leaders. Now with finality they reject Jesus and acknowledged his miracles and attributed his work to Satan. The Pharisees knew that Jesus was the Messiah sent by God to save Israel. They knew the prophecies were being fulfilled. They saw Jesus' wonderful works, and they heard His clear presentation of truth. Yet they deliberately chose to deny the truth. It was for them their last chance.

Matthew 12:31-32

They would not and could not from that point forward repent of their sin because they essentially said with finality to the Holy Spirit, "*Leave us alone! Stop bothering us!*" So the Holy Spirit stopped "bothering" them. Spiritual repentance became impossible because spiritual conviction had ceased.

If you worry you've committed the unpardonable sin, that means you haven't. Because, if you had, you wouldn't care and you wouldn't even sense it. It's impossible for a believer in Christ to commit the unpardonable sin, since you have responded to the Spirit's call to be saved. But it is possible for an unbeliever to be convinced of the truth of Jesus' identity and mission, and to turn your back finally, choosing in the face of certain knowledge that you are rejecting the Savior.

This is the moment Jesus shifted mode of communication and the disciples notice. **Matthew 13:10**. Jesus explains to them why. **Matthew 13:11–13**

The consequence of their rejection of their Messiah is that Jesus now teaches so they will not understand. It was actually fulfillment of prophecy. **Matthew 13:14–15**. Henceforth, his primary method of teaching to the crowds will be in parables. **Matthew 13:34–35**

Jesus reveals truth to those with tender hearts, but conceals truth from cynical people. He also begins to communicate to his disciples certain “secrets” A biblical mystery is a truth hidden in previous ages, but now revealed.

Question #2: What Are the Secrets of the Kingdom of God?
Matthew 13:11

The Kingdom of God refers to God’s rule throughout time & eternity. There are some “secrets” that are important to grasp.

1st Secret: God is working His plan

There’s never been a time when He’s lost control. Nothing happens outside of what he either causes or permits. Even the evil deeds of nations and individuals will ultimately serve his purposes. He is sovereign, accomplishing his will, in his way, and in his time. **Psalms 103:19**

2nd Secret: Salvation has always been by grace through faith.

God’s Kingdom includes every person who has ever trusted in God’s redemptive plan. We see this, for example, in Abraham, **Genesis 15:6** We experience grace through faith.

3rd Secret: God revealed His salvation through a people

He called the people of Israel to present His righteous decrees to the world. Israel would become the conduit for the Redeemer (Jesus) to enter the world in to redeem it. That nation is still precious to Him. The Lord is not done with the people of Israel. **Romans 11:25–26**

We live in a time when primarily non-Jews are coming to the Savior. But that is beginning to change. **Zechariah 12:10**

This refers to the literal earthly reign of Messiah on the earth. **Isaiah 9:7**

4th Secret: Time is running out

We are swiftly approaching the point in history when God will say “Time’s up.” Jesus says, “**I am coming soon.**” **Revelation 22:7**

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What would you say to a Christian who thinks that they have committed the unpardonable sin?**
- **Jesus spoke in parables to conceal the truth from people who continually reject him. As followers of Christ, is there ever time when we should stop sharing the truth of Jesus with someone? Explain.**
- **How would you explain the Kingdom of God to someone who doesn't know what it is?**
- **Describe some mysteries in the Old Testament that are explained in the New Testaent**
- **With all of the chaos around the world do you ever question whether God is in control? What verses can you point to to affirm that God is in control of every circumstance?**