

Message Series: Secrets Week 2

Message Title: Some Things in Life Should be Kept Secret

Date: April 9 & 10, 2016

Message Summary: The Bible teaches there are some things in life that should be done in or kept secret. For example, certain aspects of giving and praying, keeping the confidence of another, or something that involves an issue of timing.

Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. Feel free to write your answers down and make notes so you are prepared to lead your group. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased *biblical* awareness, as well as individual *self*-awareness – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and...transformation!

Below you will find questions that relate to the primary scripture and additional scripture. There will be other reflective questions intended for group discussion and application.

➤ **Keep secret... aspects of giving & praying**

Read Matthew 6:3-8

Pastor Ken taught this passage speaks more about doing the right thing for the right reasons, to receive praise from God, not man.

Have you ever done the “right” thing for another person, but honestly there was a manipulative motivation for something you truly wanted?

How can you tell when you or another person is doing the right things for the right reason vs. wrong or manipulative motivations?

➤ **Keep secret... the confidence of another**

Read Proverbs 25:9-10

How do people earn the reputation of being a gossip?

Pastor Ken talked about the importance of keeping our mouth shut, unless it honors the Lord and protects or is for the good of others. Does this come easy or difficult for most? Why is that?

➤ **Keep secret... because the timing isn't right.**

External situation

A short list of people who kept secrets and it was a good thing:

Nehemiah... kept his plans to himself

Samson... should have kept secret the source of his strength

Esther... kept secret her nationality, only to discover she was a part of God's plan to save his people

Read Matthew 17:1-13

Why would Jesus say what he did in verse 9?

Pastor Ken mentioned as a kid, we all remember how important “timing” was when asking your parents for something. Can you remember a time when you were growing up and you waited for the right “timing” before asking your parents for something?

Internal process

Read Genesis 37

If you were the older brother, how do you think you would have reacted when your little brother shared his dreams with you?

At 17, Joseph was not emotionally, spiritually or relationally mature enough to handle what God had revealed.

Joseph received the truth, but he went from a season of arrogance or at least immaturity to a season of hardship to a season of God’s favor. Can you look at your life and see “different seasons” you have gone through?

Why is it we often dream of the season of harvest and not hardship? We need to realize rarely, if ever, will God allow us to enjoy the season of harvest without going through the season of hardship and difficulty. Why do you think this is true?

At 17, Joseph had truth, but no power. What he said was true, but was careless and hurt his relationship with family.

In his 40’s Joseph had all the power, but he was gracious, and he healed his relationship with family.

What caused this difference in Joseph’s interactions with his brothers?

Pastor Ken compared how Joseph handled his revelation with how Mary the mother of Jesus handled her revelation from God.

What are the similarities?

What are the differences?

Additional reading Luke 1-2 for God’s revelation to Mary

Read Genesis 40 ... for the full story read through chapter 47

➤ Final Reflections

Is there anything you are doing, you should keep doing it, but do it privately, and not share with others?

Is there anything you are doing / saying, it's true but the timing isn't right and you need to keep it to yourself? Commit to keep growing and keep waiting.