



THE SECRET IS...

THERE IS NO SECRET!!!

**PART ONE OF:
A MULTIPART SEGMENT ON
“THE SACREDNESS AND SINFULNESS OF SECRETS”**

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DISINTEGRATING DRIPS OF EAVESDROPPINGS

WE WILL BEGIN:

- 1. DEFINING KEY TERMS**
- 2. UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLICAL PURPOSE AND ORIGIN OF SECRETS**
- 3. RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF HOLDING OTHERS' "SECRETS SUITCASES"**
- 4. REALIZING GOD'S ACCESS PROTOCOL OF SECRET PASSAGES**
- 5. ACCEPTING THAT ALL SECRETS ARE TRANSPARENT TO GOD AND OTHERS**
- 6. LEARNING THE COMPLEXITY AND THE SIMPLICITY OF THE CONCEALED AND THE REVEALED**
- 7. COMMITTING TO EXPERIENCE A LIFE OF EXCELLENCE BY EXPOSING THE "DEATH SENTENCE" OF SECRETS**



SEEKING SECRETS IN SCRIPTURE

THERE ARE:

362 OCCURRENCES IN THE BIBLE IN 13 DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS

288 IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

74 IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

HEBREW: “*Sôd*”; CONFIDENTIAL PLANS, CIRCLES, OR TALK; A GROUP OR ASSEMBLY OF “INTIMATES” WHO SHARE CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

GREEK: “*MYSTIKO*”, “*KRUPTOS*”; TO HIDE OR CONCEAL; ESCAPE NOTICE; CRYPTIC; UNEXPLAINED; MYSTERIOUS; HYPOCRITES (ACTORS WHO WORE MASKS AS SYMBOLS OF PRETENSE AND SHOW).



DISCLOSING DEFINITIONS

SECRET – NOT KNOWN OR SEEN OR NOT MEANT TO BE KNOWN OR SEEN BY OTHERS; SOMETHING THAT IS KEPT OR MEANT TO BE KEPT UNKNOWN OR UNSEEN BY OTHERS; HIDDEN FROM THE KNOWLEDGE OF ANY BUT THE INITIATED OR PRIVILEGED

OTHER SYNONYMS: CLANDESTINE; CONCEALED, COVERT; OBSCURE; PRIVATE; BURY; BURROW; OCCULT; SENSEID/SNOOP; CONFIDANTE; SECRET AGENT; TRADE SECRET; WHISPER; CODE; UNDISCLOSED; OPAQUE; PASSWORD....

EAVESDROP – TO SECRETLY LISTEN TO A CONVERSATION WITHOUT CONSENT; CAN INCLUDE WIRETAPPING, BUGGING, RECORDING, AND OTHER FORMS OF BREACHING INTO INFORMATION NOT INTENDED FOR THE “SECRET LISTENER/INTRUDER”

EAVES ARE THE GROUND WHERE RAINWATER DRIPS OFF OF A ROOF AND WAS CONSIDERED THE PLACE PEOPLE WOULD STAND TO LISTEN TO CONVERSATIONS/ INFORMATION THEY WOULD OTHERWISE NOT BE PRIVY TO OBTAINING AND WERE NOT INVITED TO DO SO

AN ACT THAT IS CONSIDERED RUDE, WITHOUT ETIQUETTE



ARE SATURATING SECRETS AS RIGHT AS RAIN?

- **California Penal Code 632 PC prohibits eavesdropping**, which is using an electronic amplifying or recording device to listen in on another person's confidential communication. The offense can be prosecuted as either a misdemeanor or a felony, and carries a maximum sentence of up to 3 years in jail.
- Eavesdropping in computer security is defined as **the unauthorized interception of a conversation, communication or digital transmission in real time**. The various forms of communication include phone calls, emails, instant messages or any other internet service.
- In the Criminal Code of the Canadian law, Section 184 states that **recording private conversation is illegal unless one of the participants consents to the interception**.
- In the United States, It is a **federal crime** to wiretap or to use a machine to capture the communications of others without court approval, unless one of the parties has given their prior consent. It is likewise a federal crime to use or disclose any information acquired by illegal wiretapping or electronic eavesdropping.
- What states can you record conversations without consent? Those states are, **California, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Washington**. Oct 10, 2020 (EPIC.org Report for Congress)
- <https://www.rcfp.org/reporters-recording-guide/wisconsin/>



IN THE BEGINNING – CONCEALED OR REVEALED?

OFTEN IN THEOLOGY, WE SPEAK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AS “CHRIST CONCEALED” AND THE NEW TESTAMENT AS “CHRIST REVEALED”

LET’S CONSIDER, “EXPOSURE THROUGH EXEGESIS” TO ASSIST US IN THE 21ST CENTURY AS A “TIME OF TRANSPARENCY”

BUT FIRST, WHAT IS TRANSPARENCY IN TODAY’S TERMS?

Transparency in a process involves **it being completely visible and open to scrutiny**, so that it's clear that nothing is being hidden. This sense of the word is especially used in the context of politicians, government agencies, organizations, and businesses and calls for them to be more transparent or increase their **transparency**.

Operating in such a way that it is easy for others to see what actions are performed. Transparency **implies openness, communication, and accountability demonstrated by leading with openness and honesty**. Being transparent within a relationship is **about sharing our thoughts and feelings honestly**, without fear of judgement or repercussions. In **leadership, transparency** is considered the key/main ingredient to building trust.

Transparency has three main purposes: to provide information, influence participation, and promote accountability



SIMILAR BUT NOT THE SAME

TRANSPARENCY IS DEMANDING A SHIFT IN OUR SOCIETY WHETHER WE AGREE WITH IT OR NOT – AND WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT.

HOWEVER, TRANSPARENCY DOES NOT MEAN FULL DISCLOSURE....HUH?

DISCLOSURE: “the intentional release of information in a direct and frank manner to facilitate transparency, openness, access and accountability.”

The tricky part of DISCLOSURE is the fact that information may NEED to be WITHHELD for different reasons

WHY? A few reasons are:

- the information is owned by someone else and needs their permission to be shared;
- it may be confidential and/or proprietary and therefore can't be shared;
- there is ethical credibility at stake if certain information is shared;
- Is it being shared to bring harm or create confusion – if so, it shouldn't be shared
- it may be time sensitive;
- It may not be “yours” to tell
- it may simply be unknown

There are many other reasons but as we see...the lines between the two are FAR from black and white! (some definitions were obtained from psu.edu)

***Defining “full transparency” and “full disclosure” will be tackled in subsequent sermon segments.**



TIME OF TRUTH

MANAGING INFORMATION IS A CONDITION OF LIFE THAT WE WORK ON MASTERING EVERY SECOND WE ARE ALIVE

THERE ARE TIMES WE HIT THE BULLSEYE AND OTHER TIMES WE MISS THE MARK. WHY?

MANY TIMES BECAUSE WHAT WE BELIEVE WE “SHOULD” KNOW, MAY NOT BE WHAT WE “NEED” TO KNOW.

THIS CAN BE TIME AND/OR CONTENT SENSITIVE.

DIFFICULT BUT DOABLE – AND A “*MUST HAVE HAPPEN*” IF WE ARE GOING TO BE EFFECTIVE AS BELIEVERS AND WITNESSES OF CHRIST.

BUT, DON'T TAKE MY WORD...LET'S ALLOW GOD'S WORD TO CONFIRM HIS OWN WORD!

THE SECRET PLACE WITH GOD FOR HIS SAINTS IS A TRANSPARENT PROMISE WITH AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION!



SACRED AND SINFUL SECRETS

DEUTERONOMY 29:29 The **secret** things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

PSALM 90:8 Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our **secret sins** in the light of thy countenance.



SECRETS IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

MATTHEW 6 – SERMON ON THE MOUNT (verses 1 – 6; 16 – 18)

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your **giving may be in secret**. And **your Father who sees in secret will reward you**.

⁵ And when you pray, you must not be like the **hypocrites**. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ **But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret**. And **your Father who sees in secret will reward you**.

¹⁶ And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the **hypocrites**, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ **that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret**. And **your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly**.



TRANSPARENT BUT NOT DISCLOSED

PSALM 91 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

³ Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

⁵ Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

⁶ Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

⁷ A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

⁸ Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

⁹ Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

¹⁰ There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

¹² They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

¹³ Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

¹⁴ Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

¹⁵ He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.



COLLAPSING THE CONFUSION

MATTHEW 24:34-42

- **34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.**
- **35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.**
- **36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.**
- **37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**
- **38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,**
- **39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**
- **40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.**
- **41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.**
- **42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**



WHEN PRIVACY IS CALLED FOR BUT TRANSPARENCY IS REQUIRED

2 Thessalonians 2:1 – 12 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

CONCEAL AND REVEAL

Acts 1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6 *When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*

7 *And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*

8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.



COLLAPSING THE CONFUSION AND COMPLEXITY

ROMANS 16:17 – 27 ¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

¹⁸ For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

¹⁹ For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

²⁰ And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

²¹ Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

²² I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.

²³ Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

²⁴ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

²⁵ Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

²⁶ But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

²⁷ To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.



SELECTING SAFETY AND HEALTH VERSUS SEWERS FOR SECRETS

- **SCIENCE DEMONSTRATES THAT HOLDING SECRETS CAN CAUSE HEADACHES, INTESTINAL ISSUES, HEART PROBLEMS, BLOOD SUGAR IRREGULARITIES, INSOMNIA, RESTLESSNESS, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, BRAIN CONFLICTS WITH PREFRONTAL CORTEX, AND OTHER MENTAL HEALTH COMPLICATIONS AND INCREASED DISEASE PROGRESSION**
- **SECRETS INCREASE THE PROPENSITY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ILLICIT RELATIONSHIPS**
- **WE CAN'T "HOLD" GUILT IN OUR BODIES SO WE TEND TO FIND SOMEONE TO TELL AND NOW THAT PERSON BECOMES PART OF THE SEPTIC SECRET CESSPOOL**
- **SECRETS CREATE TRIGGERS OF TRAUMA FROM THE PAST AND PRESENT**
- **KEEPING SECRETS IS EXHAUSTING BECAUSE OF THE PUSH/PULL OF CONCEALMENT AND DECEPTION**
- **IT CREATES FEELING OF INTERNAL FRAUDULENCE AND INAUTHENTICITY**



COLLAPSING THE CONFUSION

- **STUDY TODAY'S SLIDES**
- **DON'T MAKE IT HARDER THAN IT IS**
- **DON'T SIMPLIFY**
- **CONSIDER YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOURSELF AND THE IMPACT OF SECRETS YOU HOLD FOR YOUR SELF AND OTHERS**
- **PRAY AND SEEK WAYS TO BECOME HEALTHY IN THE MIDST OF TRANSPARENCY AND DISCLOSURE**
- **PREPARE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR SERVICES AND IN YOUR PERSONAL TIME WITH YOURSELF, BY YOURSELF, FOR YOURSELF, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!**