

Thy Kingdom Come: Kingdom Secrets

Reflect

1. When was a time you had to hold someone else's secret? How easy was it to keep?
2. When was a time you found out you were not in on a secret? How did you respond when you found out?

Read Your Bible

- Daniel 2:22
- Matthew 13:11-17
- (John 1:1-5 – supplemental)

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. In Matthew 13:11-17, what reason does Jesus give for speaking in parables?
2. According to Jesus, what are the differences between people who understand His parables and people who don't?
3. What is gained and what secret is unlocked when people "see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts"?
4. Many people say that when they read the same passage from the Bible multiple times that over time the passage changes or "speaks" differently to them. It unearths new kingdom secrets. How do you think this is possible?
5. Have you experienced a time when Jesus' teaching was made understandable and more deeply known to you? What was that like?
6. In Daniel 2:22, the prophet Daniel tells us that God can and will reveal deep and hidden things to us. Through Jesus' teachings, what are some things God has revealed to you about yourself, the world and God?
7. Daniel points out that light dwells with God. John 1:1-5 also witnesses to this, that the light of the world is Jesus and darkness cannot overcome Him. What secrets lie in dark places in your heart that Jesus can shine His light on?

Conclusion

The kingdom secret is not so secret. Jesus knows that our hearts long to see and to hear God's kingdom at work in this world. Jesus also knows that in order to see and hear kingdom workings, we need a light. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness, the one who reveals and heals the sin in our hearts and world. When we stand in the light of Jesus, kingdom secrets are revealed to us. As we continue to stand in the light of Jesus, God's grace moves in and through us more and more, transforming us into who we were created to be, children of the living God. The love of God in Jesus Christ is the secret to unlocking the kingdom of heaven in our lives, this world and through eternity.

Pray

Gracious God, help open the eyes and ears of our hearts to receive Your Son, Jesus, and reveal to us Your kingdom wisdom, light and love that is ours through Him. Give us vision to those dark places in our lives and world that need to be brought into the light. Give us ears to hear where You are calling us to join with You in Your kingdom work in the world around us. In Jesus' name. Amen.