



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

God's Secrets

“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.” (Deuteronomy 29:29 KJV)

With revelation comes responsibility. That which God has revealed to us, belong to us so that we may do, that is, apply the truths that God has revealed. There are secrets that God has not revealed and some secrets that God has revealed to only some, but not to everyone.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for “mystery” or “secret” occurs in the book of Daniel in 2:18, 19, 27, 28, 29, 30, 47; 4:9. It relates specifically to God’s revelation through Daniel of dreams and visions whose meanings were hidden to others.

The New Testament word is “mysterion.” It occurs twenty-seven times in the New Testament, twenty of them in Paul’s writings (Romans 11:25; 16:25; 1 Corinthians 2:7; 4:1; 13:2; 14:2; 15:51; Ephesians 1:9; 3:3, 4, 9; 5:32; 6:19; Colossians 1:26, 27; 2:2; 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:7; 1 Timothy 3:9, 16). It’s used seven times (Matthew 13:11; Mark 4:11; Luke 8:10; Revelation 1:20; 10:7; 17:5, 7) in connection with parables about God’s kingdom or truths disclosed in the Book of Revelation. The word is always associated with a verb of revelation or proclamation. A “mystery” is an insight into some present-day Christian experience or future expectation not unveiled clearly in the Old Testament.

In the Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, under the words “mystery” and “secrets”, the meaning is something hidden, and which being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those only who are illumined by His Spirit. In the ordinary sense a “mystery” implies knowledge withheld; its Scriptural significance is truth revealed. Hence the terms especially associated with the subject are “made known,” “manifested,” “revealed,” “preached,” “understand,” “dispensation.” The definition given above may be best illustrated by the following passage: *“the mystery which hath been hid from all ages and generations: but now hath it been manifested to His saints” (Colossians 1:26 RV)*. It is used of spiritual truth generally...

I had always thought that a parable clarified the spiritual by bringing into the physical an illustration of spiritual truth. What I learned is that a parable keeps the spiritual truth as a secret or mystery. For instance:

“¹⁰And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? ¹¹He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.”
(Matthew 13:10-11 KJV)

“¹³That is why I use these parables,

For they look, but they don't really see.

They hear, but they don't really listen or understand.

¹⁴This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says,

'When you hear what I say,

you will not understand.

When you see what I do,

you will not comprehend.

¹⁵For the hearts of these people are hardened,

and their ears cannot hear...” (Matthew 13:13-15 NLT)

Regardless of what we think, God does not share secrets with his enemies (1 Corinthians 2:7-8), God only shares secrets with His friends (Genesis 18:16-19).

When Jesus was belittled for his Messianic claims, for instance in John 7:41-43,

“⁴¹Others said, 'He is the Christ.'

Still others asked, 'How can the Christ come from Galilee? ⁴²Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?' ⁴³Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.” (John 7:41-43 NIV),

Jesus could have cleared this up by saying, I was born in Bethlehem, but raised in Nazareth as prophecy predicted. But He left his enemies and the unbelieving world to continue in their falsehoods because they had no love of the truth, so they believed a lie.

“¹⁰and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.”

(2 Thessalonians 2:10 NASB)

But to those who follow Christ, embrace His words, apply His words, do His words (Matthew 7:24), He will explain everything.

“¹¹He (Jesus) replied, 'The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.’ (Matthew 13:11 NIV)

Do you love the truth? Will you follow the truth wherever it may led? If it led you into an unpopular position or unpopular group, would you accept the persecution (Romans 8:17) and follow the One who is truth (John 14:6)? Selah! Think about that!

Questions

1 We are accountable for what God reveals to us.

True or False

2 If people do not love the truth, God will let them believe a lie.

True or False

3 How important is it to love the truth?

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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Answer Key

1 We are accountable for what God reveals to us.

True

“²⁹The Lord our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.” (Deuteronomy 29:29 NLT)

2 If people do not love the truth, God will let them believe a lie.

True

“¹⁰He will use every kind of evil to trick those who are lost. They will die, because they refused to love the truth. (If they loved the truth, they would be saved.)” (2 Thessalonians 2:10 New Century Version)

3 How important is it to love the truth?

“⁶I am the way, the truth, and the life!’ Jesus answered. ‘Without me, no one can go to the Father.’” (John 14:6 Contemporary English Version)