

“For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all.”

Luke 8:17 NLT

[lectio] // LUKE 8:16-21

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

[meditatio]

Intensely, Jesus is a student of humanity and behavior. And like a good communicator or comedian, he uses objects and ideas that are common but often taken for granted or overlooked all together. Jesus makes a big deal about light and then explains what light does - everyone already knows what light does. But that's not the point Jesus is making, he has something much more profound to discuss - life lived in light verses life lived in darkness. He uses the word "secret" and ties it to the dark. You can't see stuff in the dark, and like a secret it is unknown, or masked by the dark. But when it's light, you can see stuff. The stronger the light, the more you can see. And when it's bright enough, everything is revealed. Jesus uses light to discuss a revealing of ALL things - even secrets. Are secrets sin? No, but if there are secrets that are sin, they will be exposed. Life, in God, is open, exposed. Not in a "i'm naked" shameful way, but in a "i have nothing to hide" sorta way. Oh, BTW, the thing about sin is we WANT it hidden! One, when it's exposed we feel shame and two, when it's exposed there's a good chance someone or something will want us to STOP the behavior we've been keeping secret, in the dark or hidden. God knows we have sin, knows we want to keep doing it and knows we want it hidden. He sees the entire room because there is NO DARKNESS with God, he IS light. Jesus is just using this funny little object lesson to prepare us for the eventual reality. One day, the LIGHTS come on and we'll be EXPOSED.

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I don't like the idea of my secrets, my sin - being exposed! The struggle is real. I don't want MORE shame, I want less. I don't want to be controlled by having someone tell me "you can't do that," I want autonomy. So, I don't like the idea of my sin being shown OR having to stop it altogether. This is why it's awful to be human - flawed and selfish. I can't even lie and tell you I want you to take my sin, I really just want you to remove my shame. I want to keep the selfishness, errr, autonomy (freedom).

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root