**Secrets**

**To you it has been given**

**to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven.**

***(St. Matthew 13:11)***

**There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you. *(Maya Angelou)***

**Out shopping with my nine-year-old son, I stopped at an automated-teller machine to use my new ATM card. Worried about security, I told my son that I was going to get money out of the machine and to make sure no one was watching me. After the ATM spit out ten crisp $20 bills, my wide-eyed son said, “Do it again, Mom! Nobody's watching!” *(Sarah Gray, in Reader's Digest)***

**Why did the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning title her own original love verses “Sonnets from the Portuguese”? Husband Robert Browning often called her “my little Portuguese,” an allusion to her dark hair. Her poems were so personal she didn’t want to be identified as the poet. She came up with the Portuguese title. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware. *(Martin Buber, philosopher)***

**Every great work makes the human face more admirable and richer, and that is its whole secret. *(Albert Camus)***

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**He who has a secret should not only hide it, but hide that he has it to hide. *(Thomas Carlyle)***

**The work of an unknown good man is like a vein of waterflowinghidden underground, secretly making the ground greener. *(Thomas Carlyle)***

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**Anything will give up its secrets if you love it enough. *(George Washington Carver)***

**$7 billion: Approximately how much taxpayers pay each year to protect federal records from disclosure. That doesn’t include the cost of what the intelligence community keeps secret. That figure is, of course, classified. *(Cox News Service, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 14, 2005)***

***Zoe*: “Hi, Mommy, do you want to be in my secret club.” Mom: “Secret club? I don’t know. What do you do?” Zoe: “Well, I’m in charge of ideas and games, and Hammie is in charge of carrying stuff.” Mom: “And what would I be in charge of?” Zoe: “Making snacks and cleaning up.” Mom: “That’s not a secret club. That’s my life.” Zoe: “Except you get to wear a hat!” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**Used to be the key ingredients in Coca-Cola were secret. It’s now reported Coke includes extracts from the cola nut, coca leaf, cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg, lime juice and lavender, plus caffeine. What else it contains remains a secret. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Many of the coffee bars inside the CIA and other top-secret United States government buildings are staffed by blind people, although this has as much to do with a very successful employment drive as it does national security. *(David Hoffman, in I Never Knew That!, p. 112)***

**Confession must be kept secret: In its zeal to prosecute pedophile priests, the government is about to make the mistake of abolishing the sanctity of the confession, said Mary Kenny. In the wake of the latest report on the sex-abuse scandal in the Irish Catholic Church, the government says it plans to require priests to tell the police if they know of any in their ranks who have molested children – even if they got that information during confession. Such a drastic measure could actually be counterproductive. Psychiatrists tell us that many pedophiles are troubled by their “ghastly urge,” but delay seeking treatment because they are terrified that their doctors might go to the police. Similarly, a pedophile priest who can’t trust his confessor will simply stay closeted, and his colleagues won’t have the chance to help him or to keep him away from children. There’s also an important moral justification for keeping confessions secret. Forcing priests – and by extension lawyers, doctors, therapists, and anyone else a pedophile might confide in – to spill what they know to the police “makes every professional an agent of the state.” And we all know the word “for a society in which everyone is a potential agent of the state: fascism. *(The Week magazine, July 29, 2011)***

**While most of the script is clear, and legible if viewed in a mirror, it is almost all in “mirror writing,” written “backyards.” Since Leonardo da Vinci was probably left-handed, this way of writing might have come quite naturally to him. It could hardly have kept the contents secret or deceived the censors since his texts were copiously illustrated. Perhaps Leonardo only wished to make trouble for any who dared to read his private jottings. *(Daniel J. Boorstin, in U.S. News & World Report)***

**The difference between private enterprise and government? The formulas for making Coca-Cola and Kentucky Fried Chicken are still secret. How to make a hydrogen bomb is on your newsstand. *(Illinois Beverage Journal)***

**Diplomats traditionally have dealt in secretive matters. So secretive that each of their documents – in ancient Greece, anyhow – was double-creased against peering eyes. The word “diplomat” is from the Greek for “folded twice.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The number of documents classified as secret has increased more than 300 percent in the past decade, according to the watchdog group Openthegovernment.org. Last year, the federal government spent $7.2 billion classifying new documents, and reclassifying old ones, to make them unavailable to the public. *(Wired, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 13, 2006)***

**The downsides of secrets: Keeping secrets can lead to stress, sleep loss, and other unhealthy consequences, new research suggests. Psychologists at Columbia Business School asked 1,200 Americans online, and 312 in person, about their secrets. Participants admitted to keeping an average of 13 things to themselves -- such as thoughts of infidelity, sexual fantasies, and betrayals of trust -- including five about which they'd never told anyone. But the researchers found that they spent twice as much time dwelling on their secrets in private than they did actively concealing them from others -- and that the more often people ruminated on their secrets, the less healthy they said they were. "Secrets exert a gravitational pull on our attention," study co-author Malia Mason tells MedicalDaily.com. "It's the cyclical revisiting of our mistakes that explains the harmful effects that secrets can have on our well-being and relationship satisfaction." *(The Week magazine, June 16, 2017)***

**Fears thrive on secrecy and a sense of being “very special.” In 1968, Professor Irving Janis, a psychologist at Yale University, studied a group of surgical patients. Some worried out loud before surgery; others expressed little apprehension, indeed seemed to exhibit confidence. Curiously, the first group experienced fewer post-operative complications and had an easier convalescence than those stoic patients who felt they had to bear their fears by themselves. (Daniel A. Sugarman, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Why gender can’t stay a secret: The Canadian couple who are keeping the sex of their baby secret are “well-intentioned – but wrong,” said Judith Timson. Kathy Witterick and David Stocker sparked an “international debate about the meaning of gender” after the Toronto Star profiled them last month. They already have two sons, whom they raise in a nontraditional way, allowing them to choose clothing and toys from girls’ and boys’ departments. One of the boys, 6-year-old Jazz, has been teased by adults and children for “his predilection for things identified as girly – pink poofy dresses, hair in braids, and nail polish.” So the parents elected not to reveal the gender of their next baby, Storm, now 4 months old, to anyone. Even the child’s grandparents don’t know. The ostensible purpose of the secrecy is to protect Storm from “societal stereotyping.” It’s a worthy goal. Boys should be free to play with dolls, just as girls should be allowed to choose trucks and short hair without being mocked. But come on, “It should take people about 30 seconds to figure out the fallacy here: If you keep the sex of a child secret, you are making it the most important thing about that child, not the least.” Now it’s not just the grandparents who are dying to know – it’s the entire world. *(The Week magazine, June 17, 2011)***

**Nelson: “Guess what, Gramma, Grampa bought me a new geode! This time I’m going to be real careful and not break it.” Grandma: “Oh, that’s nice, Nelson. Where is it?” Nelson: “I don’t know. Grampa won’t tell me.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**A secret is something you can only tell one person . . . at a time. *(Allen Ginsberg)***

**God hides things by putting them near us. *(Bulletin of Detroit Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church)***

**A reader writes: Grandmother devoutly believed three things should never be entrusted to children – a sharp knife, a loaded gun and her age. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The greatest pains are those you can’t tell others. *(Jewish saying)***

**Grandma: “Did you stop using that hand lotion, Earl?” Earl: “Yeah. I didn’t like my hands smelling and feeling like a woman’s. And when a guy’s hands are soft and smooth, people think he doesn’t do any hard work.” Grandma: “And we want that to be our little secret, don’t we?” Earl: “Yes. I mean, Hey!” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Nothing is harder to do secretly than stub your toe. *(Franklin P. Jones, in Quote)***

**Dolly says to her Mom: “Mommy! I hid my present for you in a place where you’ll never find it! So don’t go near my closet!” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Concealing an illness is like keeping a beach ball underwater. *(Karen Duffy, model / actress)***

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**I seldom buy lemonade from children because I'm not sure exactly what I'll be drinking. But when I came on a young entrepreneur with a clean face and hands, I thought that was a good omen and bought a ten-cent glass of his lemonade. He told me business was booming, and I cautioned him to keep his receipts safe. "Nobody'd guess where I keep my money," he said. It wasn't until I paid him with a quarter that I learned his secret. He plunged his arm into the big lemonade jug and handed me my change -- a bright dime and five dripping pennies. *(Ned Comstock, in Reader's Digest)***

**Dolly says to her Grandma: “Grandma, I’ll keep it a secret if you want to tell me I’m your favorite.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**The LDS church remains tight-lipped about its holdings. It offers little financial transparency even to its members, who are required to tithe 10 percent of their income to gain access to Mormon temples. The Mormon Church is hardly the only religious institution to be less than forthcoming about its wealth; the Catholic Church has been equally opaque throughout history. According to U.S. law, religions have no obligation to open their books to the public, and the LDS Church officially stopped reporting its finances in the early 1960s. *(Caroline Winter, in Bloomberg Businessweek magazine, July 16, 2012)***

**Letter Go: “My husband,” said one woman to another, “received an anonymous letter informing him of something I did before we were married.” “Well, the best thing you can do is confess,” said her friend. “I know it,” the first woman said, “but he won’t let me read the letter so I don’t know what to confess to.” *(The PassTime Paper)***

**A woman walked by a shriveled old man rocking in a chair on his front porch. “I can’t help but notice how happy you look,” she said. “What’s your secret for a long happy life?” “I smoke three packs of cigarettes a day,” he said. “I also drink a case ot whiskey a week, eat fatty foods and never exercise!”: “That’s amazing. How old are you?” The old man thought for a moment, and then replied, “36.” *(The American Legion magazine)***

**The secret of making silk was known only to the Chinese for 3,000 years and anyone who disclosed it to foreigners was put to death! *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Weird Inventions and Discoveries, p. 42)***

**Two things only a man cannot hide: that he is drunk and that he is in love. *(Antiphanes)***

**On an advice-to-the-lovelorn radio show, one man called in and announced that he had been married for 42 years. Apparently eager to include seasoned male input, the female host gushed: “Congratulations! What’s your secret?” “Five wives,” was the response. *(Jill Marie Bonnier, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Another person’s secret is like another person’s money: you are not as careful with it as you are with your own. *(E. W. Howe)***

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**The most difficult secret for a man to keep is the opinion he has of himself. *(Marcel Pagnol, in Seattle Times)***

**Most of us can keep a secret. It’s the people we tell it to that can’t. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**Secrecy is the freedom tyrants dream of. *(Bill Moyers)***

**A neurosis is a secret that you don’t know you are keeping. *(Kenneth Tynan, critic)***

**Extraordinary precautions were taken to prevent photographers from showing the public what occurred on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The first published picture, which appeared in Pear’s magazine in 1907, was made through the empty sleeve of a coat that concealed the camera from the sharp eyes of the exchange’s guards. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 415)***

**An international “kingdom of occultism” took in parts of France, Switzerland, and Germany in the eighteenth century. Freemasons, Rosicrucians, and assorted mystics traveled through this underground “kingdom,” exchanging ideas and describing their visions. A sorcerer like Alessandro Cagliostro (1743-95) could always rely on other occultists to give him secret lodgings in centers like Lyons, Strasbourg, and Zurich. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 418)***

**If you want to keep a secret, you must also hide it from yourself. (George Orwell)**

**The secret of patience is finding something else to do in the meantime. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Michelle Pfeiffer: Asked whether she is surprised when friends and collaborators describe her as cautious and secretive, she says, “No, because that’s pretty accurate.” Asked why she maintains such a mania for privacy, she says, giggling, “That’s a private matter.” *(Stephen Rebello, in USA Weekend)***

**The guru says to the student: “If I told you the secret of making light, flaky piecrust, it wouldn’t be much of secret anymore, now would it?” *(MICHAEL MASLIN/CARTOONBANK.COM)***

**Not until after William Hyde Wollaston died was his method for working platinum – that is, making it malleable for commercial use – published. He was so secretive that no one was allowed in his laboratory. Wollaston made a fortune working the glamour metal around 1800. It is heavier, rarer, and more inert than gold. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 18)***

**Always there remain portions of our heart into which no one is able to enter, invite them as we may. *(Mary Dixon Thayer, in Things to Live By!)***

**Three psychiatrists agree that people always come to them with their problems, but they have no one to go to with theirs, so they decide to listen to one another’s deepest, darkest secrets. The first confesses, “I’m a compulsive shopper, deeply in debt. So I always overbill patients.” The second admits, “I have a drug problem, and I pressure my patients into buying drugs for me.” The third says, “I know it’s wrong, but no matter how hard I try, I just can’t keep a secret. *(L. B. Weinstein, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Many people refuse to give secrets away, but they’re usually willing to trade. *(Sunshine Magazine)***

**One salesgirl in a candy store always had customers lined up waiting while other salesgirls stood around with nothing to do. The owner of the store noted her popularity and asked for her secret. “It’s easy,” she said. “The other girls scoop up more than a pound of candy and then start taking away. I always scoop up less than a pound and then add to it.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**In a last ditch effort to save their marriage, a couple went to Las Vegas on a second honeymoon. It wasn’t working out so well as they seemed to bicker and argue even more than before. On their last night, they went to see a magic show at one of the casinos on the Strip. The magician was very good, so good in fact that the husband and wife enjoyed themselves more than they had in a decade. Relaxed, the man thought that perhaps their marriage would survive after all. That optimism soon faded though when, after one especially amazing feat, the wife yelled out from the back of the theater, “Hey, mister, how’d you do that one?” “I could tell you, madam,” the magician answered, “but then I’d have to kill you.” After a short pause, the woman yelled back, “Oh, then . . . just tell my husband!” *(The PassTime Paper)***

**The seed works underground, sometimes a long time, before it puts forth its green leaf, and throughout its growth its laboratory is still most secret. The embryo babe is hid from sight. Both the land and sea cover thousands of treasures – diamonds, pearls, gold, coral, coal – in the process of forming, preparing for manifestation in ages to come. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 33)***

**An item on craigslist: “Antique sewing table refinished by my wife, $30. If she’s home, $100.” *(Judy Brandt, in Reader’s Digest)***

**There are no secrets better kept than the secrets that everybody guesses. (George Bernard Shaw)**

**A secret: something you tell everyone not to tell anyone else*. (Bits & Pieces)***

**The world’s tax havens currently keep between $21 trillion and $32 trillion out of reach of the world’s governments, or more than the combined gross national products of the U.S. and Japan. *(Mother Jones, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 3, 2012)***

**The severest test of character is not so much the ability to keep a secret as it is, but when the secret is finally out, to refrain from disclosing that you knew it all along. *(Sydney J. Harris, Field Newspaper Syndicate)***

**There must be some narrowness in the soul that compels one to keep secrets. *(Henry David Thoreau)***

**Toy makers are a secretive bunch. In some of the big companies, a designer isn’t allowed to take a new toy into the hall unless it’s concealed in a sack or draped with a cloth. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one. *(Mark Twain)***

**Doctors in Covid-ravaged Missouri say that anti-vaccine sentiment runs so high that some patients are wearing disguises to get their shots. Dr. Priscilla Fraze of Ozarks Healthcare says patients have begged her, “Please, please, please don’t let anybody know that I got this vaccine.” The hospital now offers shots in a “private setting” to protect patients from being shunned. *(The Week magazine, August 13, 2021)***

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**A secret is what you tell someone else not to tell because you can’t keep it to yourself. *(Arthur Orloff)***

**At a reception following a business seminar, one woman seemed to attract men like a magnet. There were more physically attractive women in the room, and this led one executive to ask another, “What’s her secret?” “Watch her eyes,” said the other. “When someone speaks, her eyes never leave theirs. She listens with rapt attention. That’s the secret. She knows that even if a person isn’t a charming conversationalist, they can be a big hit as a charmed listener. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**About 95 percent of what’s told you in confidence, you couldn’t get anybody to listen to anyway. *(Mack McGinnis)***

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**WikiLeaks has placed online only 1 percent of the 251,287 secret diplomatic cables it obtained. Six newspapers have been given or have obtained the entire collection, but they have yet to publish cables not made public by WikiLeaks. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 21, 2011)***

**I’m furious about the women’s liberationists. They keep getting up on soapboxes and proclaiming that women are brighter than men. That’s true, but it should be kept very quiet or it ruins the whole racket. *(Anita Loos)***

**“Congratulations,” said a voice on the telephone. “You have just won the grand prize of a million dollars on your lottery ticket. Are you happy?” “DELIRIOUSLY HAPPY!” exclaimed the winner. “And what is the first thing you are going to do?” asked the voice. “Tell my friends it wasn’t me.” *(Philip Lazarus, in National Enquirer)***

**If you really want to keep a secret, you don’t need any help. *(O. A. Carping)***

**My mother taught for 11 years at a day-care center. One winter afternoon she was trying to show a young boy how to zip up his coat. “The secret,” Mom said, “is to get this piece of the zipper to fit in the other side before you try to zip it up.” After struggling with the zipper for several minutes, the boy sighed and said, “Why does it have to be a secret?” *(Elizabeth C. Boulter, in Reader’s Digest)***

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