

*The chairman and CEO of Automatic Data Processing, INC., Josh Weston suggests a good rule of thumb that we should all try to live by. He said, "I've always tried to live with the following simple rule: 'Don't do what you wouldn't feel comfortable reading about in the newspapers the next day.'"*

### There Are No Secrets

We are called to be Holy Transformed, to live holy lives. Jesus has declared us holy and righteous and now we are learning to live holy as we are transformed into His holy image.

To help us in that holy living, I want to challenge you to live as if everything in your life is PUBLIC. There are no secrets. Everything you say, everything you do, every place you go, and every thought you think is going to be known by all.

*Luke 12:2-3 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.*

*<sup>3</sup> What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. (NIV)*

- So, if you want to do something that will have to be kept secret, don't do it.
- If you want to say something that other people will have to keep secret, don't say it.

Don't believe the lie that you can say things, do things, go places, and think things and others won't know about it.

People who believe in secrets are people who will ultimately fail.

On the other hand... *"The just man walketh in his integrity; his children are blessed after him" Proverbs 20:7*  
Living as if there are no secrets, walking in integrity.

### The Worst Kept Secret

The story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39 illustrates that there is no such thing as a secret.

*Genesis 39:6-7 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, <sup>7</sup> and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"*

*Genesis 39:10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.*

As the story continues in Genesis 39, Potiphar's wife tried to force herself on Joseph. He flees leaving his cloak in her hand. So angry and being a seemingly respectable woman, she came up with a lie to cover her sins. She had a secret that only she and Joseph knew. As far as we know, everyone believed her. Joseph was put into prison, and she lived her life with that secret. She lived believing that there was such a thing as a secret.

She was wrong. Thousands of years later, we are still talking about her today. We all know about this dirty old woman who liked chasing a teenage boy around the house trying to seduce him. Joseph's integrity and honor is still intact, and Potiphar's wife is a mockery. There are no secrets.

### Lies We Believe

Joseph was probably tempted with a few of the lies that we like to tell ourselves.

#### 1. ***No one will ever know.***

They were alone in the house, no one needed to find out. This is a lie.

Any time you hear that thought in your head or have someone tell you "Let's do it – no one will ever find out," you can be sure that whatever you're considering is not worth doing.

#### Judah's Belief in Secrets Brought Shame to His Entire Family for Many Generations

In Genesis 38, Judah goes on a business trip far away from home in a distant land. He slept with a woman that he thought was a prostitute. He believed this lie *"No one will ever know"*.

He thought he had a secret that no one knew until he found out that the woman was Tamar, his own daughter-in-law!

***Sin will take you further than you want to go; cost you more than you want to pay; and keep you longer than you want to stay.***

#### 2. ***I'll only do it this one time.***

This is a powerful lie that ruins so many people. I'll only get drunk once. I'll only commit adultery one time with this person. I'm only going to take this money this one time because, at this point in my life, I need it so desperately. I'll only smoke pot or take this pill one time. I'll try anything once.

But what if Joseph would have yielded to this temptation just one time? Would it really had been such a big deal? So, what if he sinned? Would it really make that big of a difference in the scheme of things? It wasn't going to change history or anything, was it? Or was it?

*Genesis 45:6-8 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.*

*Genesis 50:19-20 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

### **3. This will fulfill my needs and get me what I want.**

Joseph could have thought, "Here is my chance for freedom. This is a woman of wealth, influence, and power! She can help me. I'll give her what she wants, and she will give me what I want."

Joseph was tempted like we are today, but Joseph made a good decision.

*Genesis 39:8-9 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. <sup>9</sup> No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"*

**Next Life Transformation Step: This week I will consider, think, and pray about the lies I tell myself that lead me to believe the ultimate lie that I can have a secret.**

### **The No Secrets Principle Can Work in Our Favor**

God sees everything done in secret, both good and bad. Jesus said the good done "in secret" will eventually be rewarded publicly.

*Matthew 6:2-4 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

Jesus said the same principle applies to fasting and praying.

*Matthew 6:16-18 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

### **We Will Reap What We Sow**

*Galatians 6:7-9 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Many great men and women of God have fallen because of poor decisions that they made.

We aren't just talking about having no secrets with your physical actions.

We are talking about heart matters also.

Even the most personal things that are in our heart, mind, and attitude will dynamically affect our lives.

**ILL.** Forgiveness. *Matthew 18:35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

The Holy Spirit searches our hearts and knows the thoughts within. Eventually, what is hidden on the inside will express itself on the outside in our words and deeds.

### **Use the Fact that There Are No Secrets for Your Good.**

Let people see the presence of Jesus in you.

*Mark 7:24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. (NIV)*

When they whisper about you, let them whisper about your generosity, your unconditional love, your kindness, and caring. Let them whisper about the presence of Jesus in you.

### **Let's Let Jesus Clear Our Rap Sheets.**

I'm not telling you that you should go out and tell everyone everything that you ever did; the good, the bad, and the ugly! I'm saying today, and from this day forward, let's live as if there are no secrets. If there are things in your past that you are ashamed of, ask Jesus to forgive you and make things right with the Lord.

*I John 1:9-10 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

### **What We Cover, God Uncovers.**

*Proverbs 28:13a "He who conceals his sins does not prosper,*

#### **Cover Up Game Rules**

1. Blame others.
2. Get as many sinful sympathizers as you can.
3. Lie. We lie to God. Then, we lie to others.

### **What We Uncover, God Covers**

*Proverbs 28:13b ...but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

#### **Next Life Transformation Step: I will memorize Proverbs 23:13**

*Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

We've all got secrets. Let's uncover them today.

If your deeds were to appear in the newspaper tomorrow, what would the headlines read?

**"Christian Guilty of Sin!"**

Or

**"Christian Guilty of Sin, Confesses to Holy God, Now Forgiven!"**

#### **Life App Group and Family Devotional Application**

1. It's contrary to Luke 12:2-3, but if you are honest with yourself, don't you truly believe that you can have a secret? What does the word of God tell us?
2. How would your life change if everything you do is public knowledge?
3. Of the three "Lies We Believe" which ones have you believed the most. What other lies do we tell ourselves to convince ourselves that we can have a secret?
4. According to Matthew 6, how can the No Secrets Principle work in our favor?
5. How do you let Jesus clear your rap sheet and start living like there are no secrets?