



Today's Lesson

The Secret Place

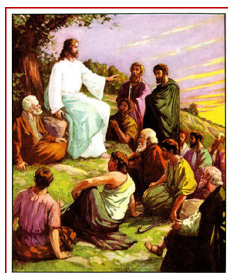
Power Point notes available at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

The Secret Place

Today is the 2nd Sunday of Advent. During this week, Unity as well as other Christian churches are celebrating the activity of peace in their lives and affairs.



The Secret Place



Jesus was no stranger to the negativity, the trials and tribulations, and lack of peace in the lives of the people under Roman rule. He acknowledged it and then added, "But be of good cheer I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

The Secret Place

The writer of the book of John (14:12) tells us that Jesus understood the demands that were placed upon the people, but Jesus reminded them that they too could do what he has done, and in fact, even greater things will they do.



The Secret Place



And then Jesus shared with everyone his secret for being able to do the things he did: "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:6)

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One of my favorite songs by the Royal Guardsmen is Snoopy's Christmas

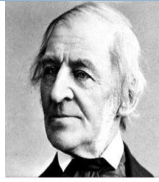


The Secret Place



Thomas Carlyle

It is has been said that there are times when true feelings of being at peace are too deep, too special, too moving for words, that seems to be the case for these two men.



Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Secret Place

The Meeting

The damp north wind was blowing a chill off the moors. It would be good to be inside on an evening like this. The American drew his coat collar tighter as he made his way to the home of his Scottish friend.

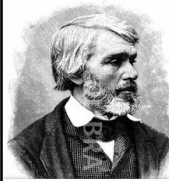
Ralph Waldo Emerson and Thomas Carlyle had enjoyed friendship through correspondence for many years before they actually met.

The Secret Place

Now, after all that time, Emerson had finally come to Europe, making a special journey to Scotland so that he could at last meet the renowned essayist and historian face-to-face.

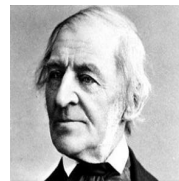
When Emerson arrived for the momentous occasion, Carlyle greeted him warmly, offered him a pipe, and then lighted one for himself. The great men then sat together in virtual silence until it was time to retire for the night.

The Secret Place



Thomas Carlyle

At that point the two warmly shook hands and praised each other for the fruitful evening they had shared together.



Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Secret Place

In Unity's Reclaiming Christmas booklet is this lesson on how silence is the secret place where peace resides for all of us.

Perhaps you have felt such closeness with another human being like Emerson and Carlyle did, or maybe you experienced it alone in nature. Times like these call for silence so that we can perceive their full meaning, savor the sweetness and listen with an inner ear for the message inherent in the stillness. It is in the silence that we meet God.

The Secret Place

Jesus left us specific instructions about this silence. He made quite an issue out of entering a secret place when you want to connect with God. Go into a place where there is only you—you and your God—and shut out all the clamor of outer things, including your own thoughts.

The secret place of silence that Jesus told us to enter is not just a quiet room in your home or a deserted strip of beach or anywhere else that you might go for solitude. It is more than that.

The Secret Place

It is an inner space, an internal and very personal place of total silence, which no one else can ever enter or disturb. It is that perfect, unchanging part of you which waits like a safe harbor, a friendly port, to welcome you in calm or storm, in peace or in distress. It is, in a sense, where you "connect" with God.

The silence (meditation) is very important to your spiritual journey because it is here, in the silence, that you find your peace and strength.

The Secret Place

Spending some time each day in the secret place of stillness may be the most rewarding thing you can do to further yourself. It will give you a chance to consolidate your gains, and it will enable you to cope more successfully with any dragons or demons which might happen to stray onto your path.

There is nothing mysterious about the secret place of the most high. It is where you listen to the still small voice of God and then go forth to walk in a brighter light of peace as it guides your way.

The Secret Place

In our secret place transformation take place when we understand that peace begins with the spirit of God within us. But it must be accepted in our own mind and thoughts, for we can only accept God's ideas of peace when our own thoughts are those of peace.

So our SECRET place is where:

Spiritual **E**vents **C**ultivate **R**enewed
Emotional **T**ransformation.