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NO SECRET SERVANTS

We often put too much value on what other people think of us. We fear that we might lose our position or lose favor from others. We can see this in Jesus' day as He ministered in Israel. It is mentioned in John 12:42 where it says, ***“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him. But because of [the judgment of the] Pharisees they did not [openly] confess Him, lest they be put out of the synagogue [excommunicated].”***

They secretly believed on Jesus but verse 43 says, ***“For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”*** Their positions as rulers in the synagogue, perhaps in the Sanhedrin, were very important to them. It carried a lot of prestige. They did not wish to lose their lofty positions.

They did believe on Jesus but were ashamed [fearful] to let it be known publicly. There clearly were several like them, but we only know of two by name. One was Nicodemus, who came to Jesus at night [John 3] under the cover of darkness so as to avoid being seen with Jesus. The other was Joseph of Arimathaea who provided for Jesus burial and was assisted by Nicodemus.

Even today, I often encounter many who claim to be servants of God. Yet, they do not talk of Jesus publicly. They do not go to church on any regularity nor associate or congregate with other believers. Yet, they claim salvation and they may pray in private, and might even read the bible.

Jesus said that if we were ashamed to take a stand as one of His, so also would He be ashamed to affirm us to His Father at judgment. So, “let the redeemed of the Lord say so” that we may be rewarded in heaven.

God is not looking for a those that just serve him secretly. He desires that we be a witness and praise and glorify His name to the world around us.