

Title: Secret Agent - John 12:37-50

Read:

³⁶⁻⁴⁰Jesus said all this, and then went into hiding. All these God-signs he had given them and they still didn't get it, still wouldn't trust him. This proved that the prophet Isaiah was right: God, who believed what we preached? Who recognized God's arm, outstretched and ready to act? First they wouldn't believe, then they couldn't—again, just as Isaiah said: Their eyes are blinded, their hearts are hardened, So that they wouldn't see with their eyes and perceive with their hearts, And turn to me, God, so I could heal them.⁴¹ Isaiah said these things after he got a glimpse of God's cascading brightness that would pour through the Messiah.⁴²⁻⁴³ On the other hand, a considerable number from the ranks of the leaders did believe. But because of the Pharisees, they didn't come out in the open with it. They were afraid of getting kicked out of the meeting place. When push came to shove they cared more for human approval than for God's glory.⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶ Jesus summed it all up when he cried out, "Whoever believes in me, believes not just in me but in the One who sent me. Whoever looks at me is looking, in fact, at the One who sent me. I am Light that has come into the world so that all who believe in me won't have to stay any longer in the dark.⁴⁷⁻⁵⁰" If anyone hears what I am saying and doesn't take it seriously, I don't reject him. I didn't come to reject the world; I came to save the world. But you need to know that whoever puts me off, refusing to take in what I'm saying, is wilfully choosing rejection. The Word, the Word-made-flesh that I have spoken and that I am, that Word and no other is the last word. I'm not making any of this up on my own. The Father who sent me gave me orders, told me what to say and how to say it. And I know exactly what his command produces: real and eternal life. That's all I have to say. What the Father told me, I tell you."

Think:

Much of my early life as a Christian was done in secret. I was just like those in the passage, who believed in Jesus but kept it quiet. I, was a secret agent. I snuck here, and I snuck there. I prayed, but only on my own, without anyone else's knowledge. I read my Bible but only when no one else was looking. You could have looked at me, and never have known I was a Christian. Why? Maybe, because I didn't want to get challenged about my faith. Maybe, because I felt that I couldn't answer anyone's questions. Maybe, because I simply was not sure myself yet. In truth, I don't know why I was a secret agent, and I don't know when I stopped being a secret agent. All I know is one day I simply mentioned the word Church in a conversation. Before long, I heard myself saying, that I would pray for people. Then I knew, my cover was blown. I was no longer a secret agent for God. So the question is, could God use me better when I was a secret agent, or can he use me better now? I think the answer is plain God has plenty of secret agents, but what he really desires is, for those who have the guts, to blow their cover. For the guys and girls, who have the real courage to blow their cover at school and college, to step forward. God can use you now, if you blow your cover.

Pray:

Father, I ask that you give me the strength to blow my cover, more and more each day. Lord, please protect me to be an agent for you, but not a secret agent. Amen.

Action:

Go on, blow your cover today. Who in you life, doesn't know what Jesus means to you? Bye for now.