

# 'And When They Were Alone'

by C.W. Ruth

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*To experience a deeper spiritual life, one must take time to be alone with God in secret prayer and communion with the Word.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 25:14, Psalm 91:1, Matthew 6:6, Mark 1:35, James 4:8

**Topics:** "Intimacy With God", "Private Prayer"

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## Description

In this sermon by C.W. Ruth, the importance of spending intimate, alone time with God is emphasized, drawing parallels to confiding in a friend and opening up one's heart in private. Just as love finds its true expression in secret, the deepest spiritual growth and understanding come from being alone with Jesus in the 'secret place,' away from distractions and noise. Those who prioritize this secret communion with God receive divine revelations directly from Him, rather than relying on second-hand information from others or religious activities.

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## Transcript

If you would confide in a friend and really open up your heart, you wait until such a time as your friend can take time to come apart and be alone with you. So they who would know the secret and hidden things of God and have Him "expound all things," must find time to be alone with Him. Such is the philosophy of love; while there may be the throbbing heart, and some expressions of affection in the presence of the multitudes, the hour of true bliss is when the doors are closed and the curtains drawn. It is there that love finds her opportunity for expression, and the confiding heart gives forth its secrets. The intensity of love demands the secret interview and longs for an opportunity of being alone with the object of its love.

We read of "the secret place of the Most High" (Ps. 91:1), and "the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him" (Ps. 25:14). So we can see plainly the Lord has secrets and a secret place for His children. How beautiful it is to feel and know that one is permitted to come into "the secret place of the Most High." Visitors and strangers come into reception halls and parlors, but only they who are in most intimate relations known to be tried and true can come into the secret places. What is the meaning of a secret place, but the shutting out of all that might intrude or detract; to be left alone with the object of its love?

Again we say, the deepest expressions of mutual affection, confidence and pleasure are not in public assemblies, in hurried greetings and mere social relations, but in the "secret place," alone and unobserved.

It is exactly so in our relations to Jesus. Men and women who fail to take time to be much "alone" in the "secret place" with Jesus, are never deeply spiritual and are compelled to get their news concerning the kingdom second-hand. They know simply what the preacher or some one else tells them; they are ever running after men -the newest preacher and the latest evangelist- to get some more news, second-hand, concerning the King's business.

But they who have learned the "secret" of being much alone with Him in the secret Place, get the secrets of the Lord directly from the King himself and so are not dependent on the newspapers for the latest news. No amount of religious activities or service can make up for the lack of secret communion and fellowship with God. Joseph and Mary had been engaged in the worship and service of the Temple when they lost Jesus, and traveled a whole day's journey "supposing Him to have been in the company" before they discovered they had lost Him. One may become so absorbed with religious work and duties, so hurried and preoccupied that there is no time for secret prayer, and being alone with Him and the Word, and become lean in soul and backslide while thus engaged in the work of the "Temple".

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