

“THE SACRED SECRET”
Ephesians 3:1-13

Has a surprising plot twist ever been discussed among friends? Of course! To Paul, the combination of Jews and Gentiles to form the church was just such a twist in God’s Story. And he never stopped talking about it. Should we?

I. The Secret in the Story is a _____ .(3:1-6)

II. Sharing the Story is a _____ .(3:7-12)

III. The Sacrifice for Sharing is a _____ .(3:13)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Though God always had his sights on all peoples, His primary missional tool was Israel (Psalm 67). Since the church is now God’s primary missional tool, where should we set our sights? (Acts 1:8).
2. Paul viewed his calling to share the gospel as a sacred trust and privilege. Some believers view their responsibility for evangelism as a burden and curse. Which are you?
3. What sacrifices are you willing to make to see the mission of the gospel go forward?
4. How does Ephesians 3:1-13 relate to this year’s goals to KNOW THE STORY and to TELL THE STORY? How would you assess your progress regarding these goals?



the
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a look at Ephesians



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I. The Secret in the Story
is a SECOND PLOT.

Plot 1: Israel's Selection
as God's Tool

Plot 2: Gentile Addition
as God's Tool

Ephesians 3:1-6

May God be gracious to us and
bless us

And make His face shine upon us,

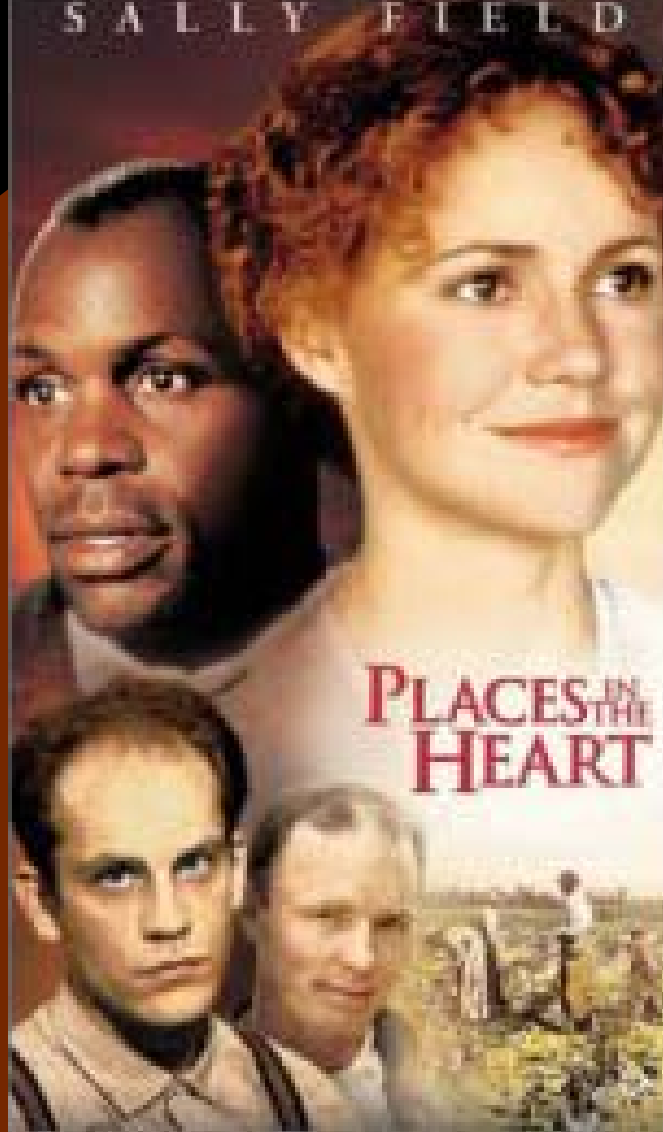
That Your ways may be known on
earth,

Your salvation among all nations.

Psalm 67:1

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SALLY FIELD



PLACES IN THE
HEART

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II. Sharing the Story is a SACRED PRIVILEGE.

- A. Undeserved Privilege to Receive the Mystery
- B. Undeserved Privilege to Relay the Mystery

Ephesians 3:7-11



ANDERSON COOPER BLOG 360°

AIRS: 10 P.M.-Midnight ET Monday-Friday

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

'Illegal immigrant' discovers he was legal after all

Imagine owning a winning lottery ticket, and carrying it with you for decades, but not knowing you had it. Riches could lie ahead, opportunities might abound, but you don't know about the possibilities, until someone brings it to your attention. So it was for Wilfredo Garza, a man whose life is now changed forever.

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III. The Sacrifice for Sharing
is a SMALL PRICE .

A. Paul's Price: Prison

B. Paul's Prize: Priceless

Ephesians 3:12-13

“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for Him.”

-Philippians 1:29



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