

The Hidden Life

1. It is well to remember, that the Hidden Life of Jesus lasted on, beyond the thirty years of Nazareth;
2. That the Gospels do but give us a glimpse of the Public Life, as St John tells us;
3. That of all the aspects of His Life, Jesus has preserved this one for all time, in the hiddenness of the Blessed Sacrament.

I. **The world looks at it and condemns it:**

1. It is a waste of time: Life is so short, there is so much to be done
2. It is a waste of talent and energy: did not Our Lord Himself say that the city on a hill cannot be hid ? That talents must be put to best account ? That we should let our light shine before men ?
3. It is a waste of good example: how much more might Christ have done had He followed the advice of His 'brethren': 'Go up to Jerusalem that men may see.'

II. **Jesus looks at it with other eyes:**

1. Waste of time ? No time is wasted which is spent upon 'my Father's business'.
2. Waste of talent and energy ? Yet could He say: 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how have I longed to gather thee . . . and thou wouldst not'.
3. Waste of example ? Yet could He say : 'I have given you an example'; and what example has profited mankind more than the example of the Hidden Life ?

III. **We look at it and see the fruits:**

1. Growth in wisdom : the Hidden Life gives deeper knowledge and understanding.
2. Growth in age : the Hidden Life gives deeper experience and maturity.
3. Growth in grace :
 - (1) before God, giving the fruit of prayer,
 - (2) before man, giving love, and power to do good.

The Illuminative Way, Alban Goodier S.J.

