

GROUP #5

TOPIC: The dilemma of the public role. Almost every temptation Satan offers has to do with glory, action, heroism, etc. in a public role. Yet Jesus seems to resist this by the emphasis he places on contemplation and his role as a private individual.

KEY PASSAGES:

- end passage of poem IV. 633-39 : the angels praise and proclaim Jesus as savior, telling him "on thy glorious work / Now enter, and begin to save mankind" But "hee unobserv'd / Home to his Mothers house private return'd."
- Jesus' comments on the futility of public praise - III. 46-92

QUESTIONS:

This end passage is weird; very inconclusive and seems opposite to what the Son of God is being told to do. So what is the poem advocating here? What are we to understand from Jesus' apparent rejection of the public role of savior? Are there any connections to the poem as a whole - i.e. if we are to read this poem as an allegory of the human condition, what is being suggested about how we should pursue spirituality? What can be said about the contrast between public and private that runs throughout this poem?

*

Suggestions on "team teaching": presenting your discussion to the class

- be clear about what issue you're discussing - first lay out the issues involved, explain what question you're getting at
- refer to textual evidence that encapsulates or illustrates the heart of the issue (i.e. read the passage involved)
- would this passage be a good "exam passage"?
 - show how the passage illustrates the points your group has made (i.e. close read the passage to point out what elements you would write on)
 - think about how the issue and the passage relate to the text as a whole