

MARK 4:21-25 THE LAMP TAKE HEED HOW YOU HEAR

INTRO:

- God is looking for fruit in our lives. Fruit is to be a natural development and out-growth of the active word in our lives.
- In this chapter there is much about the kingdom of God, these are picture lessons on what life is and how we are to grow and live in the kingdom.. Let us explore/discover.
- The emphasis in our first parable was on the soil and its ability to bring forth fruit. Here the emphasis is on the lamp, lampstand, the light, hearing, using and passing on the light.

READ MARK 4:21-25:

VS 21 & 22

- The house hold lamp was usually a small shallow saucer-like clay vessel, a hole in the top center for adding oil and a short spout with a hole in the end for the wick, which lay in the oil and was lit.
- A lamp is an instrument to service the act of illumination.
- I first see the lamp as the word of God. Ps. 119:105. Thy word, lamp, feet, light path.
- The light illuminates direction, enlightens the soul and encourages
- It also exposes and reveals what is not otherwise seen.
 - **Heb. 4:12, 13**
- As a lamp gives light and fills a room with illumination revealing everything that was unseen before. So does the word of God.
- Secondly I see our lives as possible lamps.
- What I also see is that I am a lamp, the Life of God in me is the light, the lampstand is the opportunities of life which should reflect, magnify, and lift Jesus up.
- The purpose of the lampstand is to elevate the lamp in order to radiate light so that all who enter the house, come within its effects will see the light, the light exposes. (Mt. 5:15, LK. 8:16)
- Our providence and labors are part of the lampstand.
- The situations and circumstances in our lives become means to display the light of God.
- If we are lamps on the lampstands of life, what would be the outward expression?
 - Mt. 5:15; we are to be a city on a hill, a city of light, let your light so shine that all may see it.
 - Holiness of life, **Gal. 5:22, 23**
 - Speaking the gospel in word and life.
 - Good works, Mt. 5:16; Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
 - Notice the reason...to Glorify Him not me/us.

Christ is the light.

• JN. 1:8, 9

- JN. 8:12; Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
- If I truly am born again having Christ living in me, His life, character cannot be hidden; not a secret, His life will become visible to those around me. There will be an out-shinning.
- He must be lifted up. (Jn. 12:32)
- Let us not hide our light, our Christ under some bushel, but lift Him up.
- His life which is the light for the world will always be seen. Darkness cannot overcome it.
- Our walk, our life should resemble and reflect the Lord Jesus.
 - (1 JN. 4:17; Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.
 - Eph. 4:1, 2, Walk worthy
- A bushel is anything in our life that can be used to hide or cover up the gospel and the life of Christ in the soul.
 - Such as; fear of man, cowardly, sin, business... (Rev. 21:8)
- Please notice the emphasis and focus is to be on the Light not the lampstand.
- Jn. 12:32 If I be lifted up from the earth I will draw all men unto Me.
- The lamp needs the oil to burn and to give off light. If the lamp runs out of oil it cannot fulfill its mission. So we need the Spirit's constant filling.
- No oil, no light.

VS 23

- In Vs 23 Jesus repeats what is often repeated by Him, "if anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." Jesus implies 2 things here. 1) all men do not have ears, 2) and some who have ears do not use them.

VS. 24-25

- With the picture of the lamp, lampstand and the light, things added and things taken away, we see the exhortation to not only hear and receive, but to pass on to others what we have been given and thus be fruitful.
- The things we freely receive from God are not to be hoarded by ourselves but passed on to others. We are to reflect the truth as it is in Jesus, then spread and broadcast the life, knowledge and light we have received.
- VS. 24, 25; goes on to challenge us to not only hear, but to put into practice, to value, to take stock of what we hear, to look after it.
- Luke adds in 8:18 "take heed how you hear.
- NASB, take care to what you listen to, ESV Pay attention
- What great importance the Lord lays on "hearing," hearing that leads to life, for faith comes by hearing.. (Rom 10:17)
- Paul's dying charge to Timothy, his son in the faith was, "preach the word, 2 Tim. 4:2 and also he writes in 1 Cor. 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the

world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

- “With what measure you use, it will be measured to you.” VS. 24
 - AMPC; And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you *who hear*.
- Hearing, accepting, understanding and learning a truth is not an end but a beginning. It is to be shared, passed on. (stage 4 soil)
- The more we pass along that which we have received, by the grace of the Spirit of God, the more we shall receive in return.
- Give out what you have received that you may receive and continue to grow.
- Heb. 5:14 proclaims “by now you ought to be teachers.
- Sunday school teachers, home group leaders and participants, the more we prepare and give the more we will receive and be refilled with more.
- Paying attention, taking heed to what I am and how I am hearing is critical. Focus, concentrate, meditate, contemplate, be intentional about taking inventory and applying what God says.
- Also God is faithful to refill our vessels, our lamps.
 - Prov. 11:24; There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more; And there is *one* who withholds more than is right, But it *leads* to poverty.
- If we do not apply and share, give out what we have received we will lose even what we have been given.
- See the warning of Luke 8:18 from him shall be taken even that which he seems to have..
 - See also LK. 12:47, 48b And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.
- We must take seriously the warning of the apostle Paul to some when in Titus 1:16 he says, They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.
- We must not have a lazy, do-nothing Christianity, there must be fruit and light.
- We must not be idle like the servant who received one talent and buried it. **Mt. 25:18, 24-30**
- We are everywhere exhorted to add diligence to the priceless precious promises and the divine nature that has been given to us.
 - 2 Peter 1:4-10 add to your diligence....
 - Proverbs. 13:4 The soul of the diligent shall be made fat.
 - 19:15 an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

CONCLUSION:

- The more we do for our souls the more we will discover God doing for them. (J. C. Ryle.)
- Like the lampstand, the lamp and the light, it is to be used to illuminate others...Not to be hoarded for ourselves.