

- I) **V21-23 INTRO: And He said to them Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under**
- II) **Jesus has just given an explanation to His men to explain why people reject the gospel**
- III) **As we have seen, Jesus has been traveling throughout Israel and ministering to people**
He has been preaching, teaching, performing miracles and delivering the possessed
He has even forgiven sins
- IV) **Because of this His reputation has grown, and multitudes have begun seeking Him out**
- V) **At the same time, a growing opposition had developed**
The religious leaders had started looking at Jesus as a false teacher
- VI) **He had forgiven a man of His sins, which they considered blasphemy (2:7)**
Also, He had healed someone on the sabbath and they considered that working (2:24)
- VII) **This evidenced that He rejected both their authority and their traditions**
These infractions of their understanding of the law provoked them to seek His death
- VIII) **Jn 5 records that Jesus healed a man who was paralyzed for 38 years**
The problem: He did this on a Sabbath provoking the authorities to desire His death
- IX) **When He was confronted over the healing, Jesus responded**
Jn 5:17 My Father has been working until now, and I have been working
- X) **The response of the Jewish authorities was intense**
Jn 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God
- XI) **At this point in Mark, the Jewish authorities were now hardening in their rejection of Him**
They couldn't dispute His miracles, so they said that He had Beelzebub!
(3:22)

XII) In spite of the growing opposition, multitudes continued coming to Jesus

**XIII) Jesus ministered non-stop, and this alarmed His half-brothers
They became concerned for Him, thinking that He was out of His mind
(3:21)**

**XIV) Because of this, they came to where He was ministering to force Him to rest
(3:31)**

**XV) There were so many coming that Jesus deputized 12 men to assist Him in the work
They served next to Him and saw what an amazing, compassionate Man
He was**

I) They heard His words, saw His miracles, witnessed His Majesty, admired His eloquence

This may have caused them to become puzzled

II) Why are people rejecting Him? Why don't they follow Him? Why don't they believe Him?

To reveal to them why this was happening, He began giving a series of parables

III) FIRST: He illustrated the kinds of hearts that people have in response to the gospel

He gave the parable of the sower and the seed to help them understand the rejection

IV) Some people simply have hardened hearts and are completely callused to His message

Some people are shallow and uninterested in the depth of its meaning

Some are too filled with the cares and desires of this world to listen, and believe

V) Each of these types of people explain why some reject Him and His message

Those hardened in religion, the shallow, and the worldly have no desire for salvation

They are content to remain in as they are

VI) On the other hand, those who are hungry respond to what He has to say

Not every one of them responds deeply, and produce various amounts of fruit

Though they all respond, some are more committed to others

- VII) With this opening parable, Jesus began giving understanding of the kingdom of God
Those who hear His word and believe it are those who bear fruit for the kingdom
- VIII) Part of the fruit they produce is becoming sowers of the seed that saved them
- IX) With that, let's begin looking at the following parables
- X) V21 Also He said to them Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed
- XI) Notice how Jesus uses the image of a lamp to illustrate our mission in life
Lamps are used to illuminate the darkness
- XII) As lamps, Christians are to shine brightly in the midst of a sin darkened world
Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather expose them
- XI) Fellowship: Participation; partaking; sharing in
We are not to share in, tolerate or endure sin
Instead we are to expose it for what it is
- I) This comes through how we live: what we say, and what we do
Jas 2:14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?
- II) In the Book of Ephesians, Paul exhorted the church to live a loving and sacrificial life
In Eph 5:1-2 (He instructed the church to) Be imitators of God... and to walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us
- III) Throughout that letter, Paul wrote of what is called the walk of the believer
In Eph 2:10, our walks are to be known by our good works
In Eph 4:1 He said our walk was to be worthy, or appropriate of the gospel
- IV) In Eph 5:3-7 (He said that our lives were to) be free from fornication, sexual uncleanness, sexual lust, filthy speech, empty headed talking, or language filled with sexual innuendos
- V) As believers we are not to be molded by the system that crucified Christ
Instead of taking our cues from this world, we need to influence it, for

good

VI) Instead of having fellowship with these things, we actually live a life that exposes them

Eph 5:11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

VII) We don't just endure the evil, getting used to it so we can get along with people

We live lives that reveal what evil is by way of contrast to the way that we live

VIII) This is why, we on a personal level, are not to tolerate, minimize or practice sin
We love those who don't know Jesus, but do not tolerate sin in our own lives

IX) Abraham's nephew Lot lived in Sodom, a famously evil city, but Sodom did not live in him

He did not allow himself to be seduced by Sodom, but rejected its influence

2 Pe 2:7-8 says (God) rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)--

X) It is this moral pain and distress that provokes you to speak to those trapped in sin

This was true in the life of Paul

Ac 17:15-17 The men who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible. While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols, so he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

I) This is what Jesus is Jesus is illustrating to His followers

The church is like a lamp, shining brightly in the moral and spiritual darkness

II) This is because the world lives in spiritual darkness and bondage

1 Jn 5:19 We know that we are of God and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one

III) This parable illustrates for us that Christians are to openly manifest the light of Christ

IV) Darkness is the condition of every person who does not have a relationship with God

Eph 4:18 (unbelievers have) their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart

V) Before coming to Jesus, people are spiritually blind and are living in spiritual darkness

2 Co 4:3-4 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

VI) The mission of the church is to be spiritual light in the darkness of this world system

VII) V21 And He said to them Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed?

VIII) This is what we Christians are: We are light in a sin darkened world

1 Pe 2:9 You are a chosen generation a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light

IX) You don't light a lamp and then put it under a basket, or under the bed

Those who have received the light of the gospel don't hide it

They are intended to proclaim the message to those who are in

darkness

X) V22 For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept

**Though people don't want their sin exposed, the gospel will do just that
In the preaching of the gospel, sin is identified and exposed**

XI) People are not thrilled when their sins are exposed

Jn 3:19-20 This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

XII) We try to cover up our sin, but we always fail

I) God brings to light every hidden thing and judges righteously based on what is exposed

Eccl. 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

II) No matter what the response may be, the church is to faithfully preach the gospel

The seed that has been received in their hearts is to be given to others!

III) V23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear (V9)

Carefully consider what I am saying, and listen attentively

IV) V24 And He said to them Take heed what you hear

**This is an appeal to spiritual perception: Pay attention what you listen to
If you receive this then you need to act on it**

V) V25 For whoever has to him more will be given; but whoever does not have even what he

In the things of the Spirit, a person is either gaining or losing, advancing or declining

VI) When you receive and act in faith, your life grows in maturity and spiritual experience

**You already have, but to what you have more will be given
Every blessing is a taste of future blessings and experiences in Jesus**

VII) When you sow a great amount of seed, you will be rewarded with a large harvest

Your faithfulness will be rewarded in proportion to the amount of seed you sow

Ps 62:12 And lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, for You recompense a man according to his work

Rev 22:12 Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

VIII) V25 For whoever has to him more will be given; but whoever does not have even what

Notice He says whoever does not have even what he has will be taken away from him

IX) The phrase even what he has is explained in the parallel passage in Luke

Lu 8:18 Whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him

X) This draws our attention back to the parable of the sower and the seed

**These are false converts (stony ground, seed among thorns)
They have a false appearance of being believers**

**XI) Their unfruitful and superficial faith will be exposed in the day of judgment
Mt 7:23 (On that day Jesus will) tell them plainly I never knew you. Away
from Me, you evildoers**

**I) V26-29 And He said The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on
the ground**

**II) This parable is unique to the gospel of Mark
It invites a comparison with the first parable, the sower and the soil
NOTICE: There is an emphasis on sowing seed, growth and harvest**

**III) This parable reveals another characteristic of the person who has received the
seed**

**As they sow seed they faithfully and patiently wait on the Lord to
produce results**

IV) V26 The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground

**V) THE SOWER: Is busy scattering seed on the ground (we are the sowers)
THE SEED: Would be the word of God (V14)**

**VI) What we see is a combination of human responsibility and God's activity
We faithfully sow the seed of the Word, but it is God producing results
1 Co 3:5-7 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are servants
through whom you believed, as the Lord has assigned to each his role. I planted the
seed and Apollos
watered it but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is
anything, but only God, who makes things grow.**

**VII) V27 And should sleep by night and rise by day and the seed should sprout and
grow**

**The sower does not control when the seed sprouts and begins to
blossom**

All he can do is to faithfully sow the seed and to wait patiently

**VIII) By saying night and day, Jesus reveals a period of time in which the seed is at
work**

**IX) V27 The seed should sprout and grow reveals that the Seed produces on its
own**

God's Word brings life when deposited in soil that is receptive

Jas 1:21 humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

X) V28 For the earth yields crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, after that the full

The crop that has been sown spontaneously grows without the help of man

It is God who brings growth through His Word sown and received in genuine faith

XI) The kingdom of God expands through the faithful preaching of God's Word

XII) It does not expand because of human genius or human effort

It does not rely on a Preacher's personality, church events, denomination or its name

It does not depend on advertising gimmicks, building programs or good locations

It does not rest on great music, special speakers or even on people who are "like us"

I) The truth is, when a church is built on superficial things, it results in shallow people

You end up with spoiled, event oriented people and no one who is willing to serve

II) God's kingdom is built on the faithful teaching of His Word, with God producing the fruit

III) During the time of the prophet Jeremiah God made a promise to the people

Jer 3:15 I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

IV) The disciples of Jesus are to sow the word of God, expecting God to produce fruit

They are to trust God's word to produce conversions

V) In the parable, the farmer is not the one who is producing conversions

It is the farmer's responsibility to simply sow the seed

VI) This takes the responsibility of the conversion of souls off of the shoulders of the sower

The sower is to faithfully sow the seed, but it is the Lord who saves the hearer

VII) In light of eternity, we have the important task of presenting God's counsel

VIII) Listen to what God said through the prophet Ezekiel

Ezek 3:17-19 Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

IX) V28 The earth yields crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain

The sower sows God's word and the soil that is receptive receives it, producing fruit

X) When they receive the seed, the Holy Spirit produces spiritual life in them
The evangelist is not the one who gives life, it is God who does so through His word

1 Pe 1:23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit

XI) V29 But when the grain ripens immediately he puts in the sickle because the harvest

The preacher has the joy of reaping the effect of the reception of the gospel

The one who sowed the word rejoices in the bringing the person to faith in Jesus

I) As they pray with the new believer, the evangelist reaps the harvest
This causes great joy in the heart of the evangelist

II) Jesus is giving His disciples instructions for the future of their ministry

III) They are to go forth with the seed of the word, and to sow it

Ps 96:3 Declare His glory among the nations; His wonders among all peoples.

Mt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

IV) One of the added joys of this is that they will be together in heaven, for eternity

The joy of bringing someone to the kingdom last forever