

Hidden Kingdom Part 11 - "Light of Life" (4-25-21)

Introduction: Chasing the light this last year for church videos

John 8:12 (ESV)

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus - sharing kingdom parables then says these words . . .

Mark 4:21-25 (ESV)

(21) And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? (22) For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. (23) If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." (24) And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. (25) For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

Note: Today - the power & purpose of light!

1) Light Exposes

Mark 4:21-23 (ESV)

(21) And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? (22) For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. (23) If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

Note: Light exposes or reveals - then Jesus says "take note, pay attention to this!"

Jesus speaking to Nicodemus (who shows up in the cover of darkness to seek Jesus) . . .

John 3:19-21 (ESV)

(19) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. (20) For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. (21) But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Note: We have a natural instinct to protect ourselves from exposure.

Paul writes about walking in love, contrasts it with a warning about walking in darkness . . .

Ephesians 5:6-14 (ESV)

(6) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (7) Therefore do not become partners with them; (8) for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (9) (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), (10) and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. (11) Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. (12) For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. (13) But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, (14) for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Note: Are you partnering with dark or light? (**Example:** stepping on the cat)

- Partnering with light brings discernment of what the Lord is leading us into!
- Inviting the exposure of light brings life!

2) Light brings Life

John 1:4-5 (ESV)

(4) In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (5) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Note: Light is undefeated! Exposure doesn't defeat you, it defeats the darkness that will destroy you!

Luke 8:15-17 (ESV)

(15) As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (16) "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. (17) For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

Note: Hearing the word with an honest & good heart - in time will bear fruit (new life!)

- Amy's grow lights - shining over dark soil, with an unseen seeds, then small growth breaks forth.

This leads us to last point:

- Plants chase the light - strangely growing bush in front yard . . .

3) Light shines for others

Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)

(14) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. (16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Note: The one who is the light of the world - also calls us the light of the world

- If we are walking in true light - it will be attractive to others, and they will be drawn toward the light
- What's your approach with others?
- Have they seen you exposed or just carrying a flashlight shining at them?
- **Example:** Our house lit up in the snow vs. Flashlight in the face in the dark

Conclusion: Final thoughts - Back to the Parable . . .

Mark 4:21-25 (ESV)

(21) And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? (22) For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. (23) If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." (24) And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. (25) For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

Note: So be careful how you hear . . .

- **Personal application** - Listening & applying brings growth. Listening without hearing stunts growth!
- **Be a safe place for exposure**
- **Celebrate life shining in darkness!**