



Title: Gospel of Mark: A Life Impacted By The Word.

Scripture: Mark 4:21-32

Date: 07162023

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: The light of the Word not only exposes our sins, but it also reveals the love of our Heavenly Father.

The Lamp (Vv. 21-25)

Vs. 21

Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? - Jesus begins this parable by using a commonly known item, a lamp. Lamps were typically made of clay and were basically a dish that had oil and a wick. The lamp essentially used itself up to produce light. Everyone would understand that in order for this lamp to function properly, it would need to be continuously filled.

Lamps don't burn indefinitely. Likewise as believers we need to be filled with the living word of God.

Vs. 22

There is nothing hidden which will not be revealed - We all know that a lamp produces light, and light reveals things. The truth from the Word of God is the same way. It reveals things in our lives.

Nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light - If we are believers, then we have the responsibility to spread the truth of God. While one size does not fit all, we are all responsible for letting others know about Jesus.

God didn't light your lamp so that it would remain hidden. - David Guzik

Vs. 23

If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear - If anyone has an ear, let them listen to what Jesus is saying.

The apostles were like that lamp: They were called to shed God's light and reveal His truth. But they could not "give out" without first "taking in". - Warren Wiersbe

Vs. 24

Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear - Jesus reminded them that they should take great care and interest in the teaching that they sit under. There is something to be said for how you are feeding yourself. We need to make sure that the teaching that we sit under teaches the whole counsel of God's word. We need to make sure that in our own private study that we consider the whole counsel of God's word.

With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you - When we receive the truth, we are able to give it back out. God will respond to us as we have responded to Him and to His word.

To the degree that you welcome the Word in your life, you will bear fruit. The more believers accept God's kingdom agenda, the more fruitfulness God will entrust to them. - Tony Evans

Vs. 25

For whoever has, to him more will be given - This does not refer to material possessions. This refers to God's spiritual riches.

When we have the godly habits of receiving the word and living it, more is built on to that. When we lose those godly habits, they are extremely difficult to get back. - David Guzik

Lessons from the parable of the lamp:

- 1. As believers, we cannot give out unless we take in.**
- 2. The Gospel is not supposed to be kept secret.**

Like A Growing Seed. (Vv. 26-29)

Vs. 26

The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground
- Jesus now describes the kingdom of God as man scattering seed on the ground.

Vs. 27

Should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow - As this man casts the seed and goes on about his day and night, the seed sprouts and grows. This shows us that the word of God works within us

Man has done what he could do - plant the seed; and God has done what only He can do: grow the seed. - David Guzik

Never discount what the Lord has called you to do. Our greatest contribution to what the Lord is doing is our obedience.

He himself does not know how - How this seed grows is unknown to this man, he can only see that it has sprouted and is growing. We can recall that the parable of the sower (soils) was key to understanding the other parables (Mark 4:13). Jesus is showing us how the word of God works in a heart.

We work in partnership with God, yet the real work is left up to Him - we trust in a process we cannot see or fully account for. -David Guzik

The Word of God works in us in a spiritual way that cannot be seen by the eyes.

Vs. 28

For the earth yields crops by itself...First the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head- The man has nothing to do with the growth of the plant. He simply put the seed out.

Vs. 29

When the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come - After the seed has grown into a mature plant, it can then be harvested. A seed may start small, but the finished product can't be missed.

The work of God in our lives may start off unnoticed, but as we mature, it won't go unnoticed.

Lessons from the parable of the growing seed:

1. We cannot make the seed grow.
2. We cannot explain how it grows
3. We are part of the process.

Like A Mustard Seed (Vv. 30-34)

Vv. 30-31

It is like a mustard seed - A mustard seed is about 1mm in diameter. This scripture puts emphasis on the difference between the seed and the mature plant which can be upwards of ten feet tall.

Vs. 32

But when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater... - By all measures, a mustard seed is tiny and insignificant; but when it grows and becomes noticeably large in size.

So that the birds of the air may nest under its shade- The mustard seed can grow from a seed to a bush that can handle nesting birds.

In the same way, God's kingdom was starting small, with just a few disciples. - Tony Evans

Vs. 34

He explained all things to His disciples - Jesus took the time to explain things to the disciples. This does not mean that they were unable to learn or incapable of understanding, it just means that Jesus took the time to teach them.

Jesus spoke in parables to communicate the truth of the kingdom, but for His disciples, he explained everything.

Lessons from the parable of the mustard seed:

1. The kingdom of God would start small but eventually grow large.

2. We can trust that God's kingdom will continue to grow.

Four Reasons Why We Need To Let Our Light Shine:

1. Only the light of God's word can expose sin.
2. Jesus' heart was to not leave people in the dark concerning His way or heart.
3. Because eternity is forever.
4. It exposes the love of our Heavenly Father.

3D Guide

DO. **BOTTOM LINE:** The light of the Word not only exposes our sins, but it also reveals the love of our Heavenly Father.



DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. Which of these three parables resonated with you the most?
2. Why is it important to let your light shine? In what ways can we practically do this?
3. What are some ways we can apply this scripture to your lives?



DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.