

Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart

PART 17 — Parable Of The Lamp: “What You Do With The Light”.

Mark 4: 21-24

²¹*He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? ²²For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. ²³If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”*

²⁴*“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. ²⁵Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.” (Mk 4:21-24)*

- This passage fits perfectly after the Sower because Jesus is now explaining **what happens after the seed is received.**
- The Sower asks: **What kind of heart receives the Word?**
- The Lamp asks: **What happens when that Word actually takes root?**

The answer is: **it becomes visible.**

Jesus is moving from **reception** → **revelation** → **responsibility.**

I. The Lamp: Kingdom Life Is Meant to Become Visible

“Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand?”

A lamp exists to give light? Jesus is saying that the truth of the Kingdom is not meant to remain hidden inside a person.

If the seed of the Word truly takes root, eventually it produces something visible:

- character
- obedience
- righteousness
- mercy
- courage
- truth
- endurance
- love

This directly complements the Sower.

The good soil does not merely **receive** the seed. It **produces fruit.**

The lamp is another picture of the same principle: **True reception eventually becomes visible expression.**

The resurrected heart cannot remain permanently hidden because resurrection life produces evidence.

II. “Whatever Is Hidden Is Meant to Be Disclosed”

This is both a promise and a warning.

Jesus says: *“Whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.”*

There are at least two dimensions here.

- **First**, the mystery of the Kingdom that is presently hidden will eventually be fully revealed.
- Jesus has come quietly.
- The Kingdom begins like seed underground.
- Messiah is misunderstood.
- His glory is partially veiled.

But it will not remain that way.

- The resurrection begins the unveiling.
- The return of Christ completes it.
- The Kingdom that now appears small, hidden and resisted will eventually become openly visible.

But there is also a personal warning:

What is hidden in us will eventually become visible too.

The Sower already established that soil condition matters.

- Now Jesus says that hidden realities do not remain hidden forever.
- Roots eventually reveal themselves.
- Fruit eventually reveals itself.
- Competing loyalties eventually reveal themselves.
- Hardness eventually reveals itself.
- Faithfulness eventually reveals itself.

***And at the harvest, everything becomes visible.

So this is deeply eschatological:

The growing season hides much BUT The harvest reveals everything.

III. “If Anyone Has Ears to Hear, Let Him Hear”

Jesus keeps saying this because hearing is not simply auditory. **It is spiritual receptivity.**

Paul makes the connection to spiritual receptivity to sacrifice, which then enable for spiritual renewal in Romans 12:2 - ***Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.***

And this connects directly to the Sower.

- The seed is the Word.
- But the Word must enter a heart capable of receiving it.

Jesus is warning: **Do not assume that because you heard Me, you received Me.**

There is a difference between:

- hearing words

and

- allowing truth to reorder your life.

The resurrected heart does not merely listen. It yields.

IV. “Consider Carefully What You Hear”

This may be the heart of the entire passage. ***Consider carefully what you hear.***

Jesus places **personal responsibility** on the listener.

The Word is not passive information. Once truth has been given to you, you become responsible for what you do with it.

***That is a **major Kingdom principle**.

Greater revelation brings greater responsibility.

- The more truth you receive...

- the more surrender it requires.
- The more you understand...
- the more accountable you become for living it.

This is why Jesus repeatedly warns people who witness miracles but remain unchanged.

They are receiving more light without responding to it. And that becomes dangerous.

That is how you can become a Virgin, walk around with a Lamp, but be void of Oil!!

V. “With the Measure You Use, It Will Be Measured to You”

This connects directly to spiritual receptivity.

The measure with which you approach God's truth affects how much more you are capable of receiving.

If your heart approaches God with:

- humility
- hunger
- obedience
- surrender

then revelation grows.

But if your heart approaches God with:

- resistance
- pride
- indifference
- selective obedience

then spiritual perception diminishes.

This is not God playing games with revelation.

It is the natural result of heart posture.

Truth received opens the heart to more truth.

Truth resisted hardens the heart against more truth.

That is exactly what happened with the Pharisees.

- They did not lack light.
- They resisted light.

And eventually their ability to see became darker.

*** This is a huge burden in the world of Christianity....there are so many self appointed scholars that can spit out Godly “wisdom” but they apply very little of the same principles to their own lives....and unfortunately we do not see those fissures in their lives, because those fissures only are revealed in family. Families know....but they deal with it because that’s their spouse, or their parent, and the shame of exposure is worse than dealing with the ugliness that ensues when we try to expose it to heal it.

There is a scripture that describes this and Jesus response to such a life...

***“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”
(MT23:27,28)***

James is a little nicer but pierces with truth... ***“Being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”
(Jms 2:8)***

Or when Jesus calls on Isaiah prophecy on the condition of the Heart of Man towards the Messiah: ***“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me.”(Mt. 15:8)***

The reality is that as much as I believe and hope that we can become such family that I can tell you what I really think, I and most of us really don't, because if we did the aftermath would be ugly. Friendships would crumble, relationships would be void in a matter of seconds.

So we teach this heart, we talk about being unoffendable, and we push the envelope little by little to get to a place where we can truly say “hurtful things” to eradicate the things that keep us from giving Jesus all we have.

VI. “Whoever Has Will Be Given More”

This sounds harsh until you connect it to the Sower.

The good soil receives the seed and produces thirty, sixty, a hundredfold.

- Life produces more life.
- Faith produces deeper faith.
- Obedience produces greater capacity for obedience.
- Humility produces grace.
- Grace produces maturity.

This is Kingdom multiplication.

But the opposite is also true.

“Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

A person who repeatedly refuses truth slowly loses the ability to recognize truth.

That is one of Jesus' strongest warnings. *Spiritual sensitivity can either grow or decay.*

There is **no neutral heart.**

We are either becoming more receptive or more resistant.

VII. The Connection to the Coming Kingdom

This is where the lamp becomes strongly eschatological.

- The Kingdom currently looks hidden.
- Jesus looks like an ordinary Galilean.
- His followers are small in number.
- Rome still rules.
- Evil still exists.
- Tares still grow beside wheat.

But Jesus says: **The lamp will not remain hidden.**

Everything God is doing quietly in this age is moving toward public revelation.

At the end of the age:

- Christ will be revealed
- the Kingdom will be revealed
- the righteous will be revealed
- the wicked will be revealed
- hidden motives will be revealed
- the fruit of every life will be revealed

The growing season gives way to harvest. And the lamp comes fully onto the stand.

VIII. The Resurrected Heart

This passage shows another quality of the resurrected heart:

- It receives light.
- The heart is teachable.
- It protects light.
- It does not allow truth to be choked.
- It walks in light.
- Truth becomes obedience.
- It reflects light.
- The life becomes visible evidence of Jesus.
- It longs for more light.
- It keeps listening.
- It keeps surrendering.
- It keeps growing.

And most importantly:

it understands that whatever Jesus is forming in secret now will one day be openly revealed.

The Progression From the Sower to the Lamp

You could almost see Jesus building the teaching in sequence:

The Sower:

Receive the Word.

The Soil:

Let it take root.

The Fruit:

Let it transform you.

The Lamp:

Let that transformation become visible.

The Measure:

Remain hungry and receptive.

The Harvest:

Everything will eventually be revealed.

That is the life of the resurrected heart.

The Loving Warning

Jesus is essentially saying:

Be careful what you do with the light I give you.

- Do not hide it.
- Do not resist it.
- Do not hear it casually.
- Do not assume that exposure equals transformation.

Because the Kingdom is coming into full view.

And the same light that reveals Christ will also reveal what His Word produced in us.

The resurrected heart receives the light of the Kingdom so deeply that it becomes visible in the way we live, knowing that what God is forming in secret now will be fully revealed at the harvest when His Kingdom comes in glory.