

# Good News From Mark

Putting a Lamp on a Stand

Mark 4:21-25

## Introduction

Because of mounting opposition, Jesus begins to teach in parables. By doing so, Jesus public ministry will accomplish two things:

- 1) it will instruct his followers
- 2) it will confound his opponents

Everyone hears what Jesus is saying, but not everyone discerns what He means.

Definition: A parable is a story drawn from nature or common life that either piques the interest of the discerning or hides the truth from those whose hearts are hard.

## 1. The parable of the lamp (21-23)

Things unique to Mark:

- A) definite article – “the lamp”
- B) verb “come” – Literally translated = “Does the lamp come to be put under a bowl or a bed?”

The lamp is Jesus himself.

John 1:9 (NIV)

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John 12:46 (NIV)

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

There was a hiddenness about Jesus' ministry:

- He rebuked the demons who yelled out who He was
- He warned people not to spread the word about Him

Part of that was to prevent opposition from mounting too early in His ministry.

Even now, the glory of God is veiled, but it won't always be that way. There will be a full revelation of Jesus Christ at His second coming.

## 2. The parable of the measure (24-25)

The measure is the level of attention we give to Jesus.

There is a promise and a warning:

A) Promise – close attention results in increase

- “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you – and even more”
- “Whoever has will be given more;”

This is the experience of the growing believer:

John 1:16 (NIV)

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

B) disinterest or opposition leads to subtraction

- “even what he has will be taken from him.”
- “The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.”
- “Use it or lose it.”

## Summary & Application

1. What you believe now about Jesus Christ indicates what will happen when He returns.

Illustrated in Jesus' words about Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

If you love Him with all your heart now, your socks will be blown off with delight and joy when He returns.

If you are disinterested or opposed to Him now, you will look for a place to hide when He returns (Rev. 6:12-17).

2. Search out the scriptures.

Don't be content to be a spoon-fed believer.

Acts 17:11 (NIV)

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.