

Mark 4:21-25

²¹ Then Jesus asked them, "Would anyone light a lamp and then put it under a basket or under a bed? Of course not! A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light will shine. ²² For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light. ²³ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." ²⁴ Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given-- and you will receive even more. ²⁵ To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them." [NLT]

²¹ También les dijo: «¿Acaso se trae una lámpara para ponerla debajo de un cajón o debajo de la cama? ¿No es, por el contrario, para ponerla en una repisa? ²² No hay nada escondido que no esté destinado a descubrirse; tampoco hay nada oculto que no esté destinado a ser revelado. ²³ El que tenga oídos para oír, que oiga. ²⁴» Pongan mucha atención —añadió—. Con la medida que midan a otros, se les medirá a ustedes, y aún más se les añadirá. ²⁵ Al que tiene, se le dará más; al que no tiene, hasta lo poco que tiene se le quitará.» [NVI]

Notes:

A. Parable of the Lamp (4:21-25):

- a. Purpose of a shining lamp?
 - i. To shine light. No body turns on a lamp and hides it under a bed or under a basket.
- b. Jesus is the lamp.
- c. Jesus' purpose is to shine His light.
 - i. Jesus' light uncovers every secret and everything that is hidden.
 - ii. Jesus' light lets us see:
 1. Who Jesus is.
 - a. He is God
 - b. So, Jesus shows us God.
 2. Our (humanity's) true condition.
 - a. Jesus loves us.
 - b. We are separated from Him by sin.
 - i. We can't hide anything from Jesus. He knows all secrets. We all sin.
 - ii. There is nothing we can do to fix the problem—we need a savior.
 3. What Jesus is doing in Mark.
 - a. Teaching us about God.
 - i. God's plan to save us from our sin.
 - ii. What types of behavior and lifestyles are ok with God and which ones are not. Sometimes these are different than what we may think, so Jesus teaches us. He teaches us how to love God and love others.
 - b. Jesus Saves us from our sin—we just need to place our faith in Jesus:
 - i. believe that we need saved and
 - ii. believe that Jesus is able and willing to save us.
 - iii. So it is important that we listen carefully to Jesus.
- d. The closer we listen, the more we will understand about God (and us), how He loves us, saves us, and how we are to live this life as His disciples.
 - i. We can listen by:
 1. Reading the Bible
 - a. The Bible is the standard that we can compare all other ways we 'listen' to. This way, we can be sure we are listening to Jesus' teaching and message, not something or someone else.
 2. Praying
 - a. Remember listening to Jesus means to be with Him. It involves more than just learning; it involves a relationship. When we pray we communicate with God relationally.
 3. Studying with other believers.
- e. But if we don't listen, we will lose even the little understanding that we have of God right now.
- f. Our relationship with God requires us to constantly be 'with Him' so we can always listen to His Word. Our lives are always changing, so we always need God to direct us and guide us. Listening, takes effort on our part—we have to be deliberate. God is always teaching us and revealing more about Himself to us, and how that affects our lives, but if we don't 'listen carefully', we miss it. So let's listen and gain understanding about God, all He has done for us, and how that needs to shape our current lives.