

Responding to the Light

Mark 4: 21-25

In our last study we discussed a very familiar parable of Jesus. Today we come to another parable our Lord shared regarding light. While most had yet to realize it, Jesus had come to earth as the great Light of spiritual truth. As He shared this parable, He wanted those with whom He spoke to grasp the importance of light in our spiritual lives. [John 8:12 – Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.](#) [John 9:5 – As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.](#)

As believers we have been exposed to the light of Christ and have an obligation to share His light in a world consumed with darkness. One cannot encounter physical light and remain unaffected. Light has characteristics that demand our attention. The same is true with spiritual light in Christ.

With these thoughts in mind, I want to discuss the [lessons](#) Jesus revealed in the text as we consider: [Responding to the Light](#).

I. The Reality of Light (21) – [And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?](#) Jesus began His discussion with a couple simple comments regarding light. These thoughts were easily understood, and yet thought provoking. Notice:

A. The Question – As He began the parable, Jesus asked two specific questions concerning light. We must bear in mind that the world did not enjoy electricity at this time, but the principles of light remain the same. Jesus questioned the benefit of lighting a candle to provide light for the room, and then placing it under a basket or the bed. He wanted them to consider the absurdity in such activity. Why would anyone light a candle and then purposely try to conceal the light it produced? If one were to light a candle, would it not be reasonable to place it on a candlestick where the light could be seen and provide the needed benefit?

- While some may have only considered Jesus' questions from a physical perspective, He was in fact proclaiming great spiritual truth. He had come as the Light of the world. He came to reveal God to humanity. He came as God in flesh, to reveal the truth of God to those who walked in darkness, apart from truth. Jesus knew the importance of His public ministry, and wanted others to see the great need for His teaching and miracles as well.

- As believers, we too need to consider these beneficial questions. Once we were saved by His grace, we were filled with the Holy Spirit. We now bear the Light of Christ within. We have been called to share the Light we have received with those who walk in darkness. If the world isn't exposed to the Light through believers, many will never encounter the truth of Christ. Granted, some will read the Scriptures and encounter truth of their own volition, but most are exposed to truth through the witness of believers!

B. The Expectation (21) – *And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?* Jesus challenged the hearer to consider the absurdity of hiding the candle, and thus minimizing the exposure of light. Such activity would work against the intended purpose of the candle. The light would still shine, as long as the candle remained lit, but the effect of the light produced would be minimized by the obstruction.

- Knowing all would not believe, and some had no desire to hear, Jesus began to teach in parables. This was done so those who desired truth could receive it, but those who rejected it would not be afforded the opportunity. However, Jesus had not come to conceal Light, but to reveal the truth of God. Although He faced increasing opposition, He was determined to continue the work He came to accomplish. He refused to allow the animosity of some to force Him into seclusion. Jesus was determined to reveal truth as long as He walked among men. (We cannot allow the opposition of others, or the hindrances of our day, prevent our light from shining. We have not been called to conceal the light we have received, but place it on a candlestick for all to see and experience!)

II. The Revelation of Light (22-23) – Here Jesus spoke of the revealing nature of light. We discover that:

A. Light Exposes (22) – *For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested.* Sharing a simple truth, Jesus revealed greater spiritual truth. All who were familiar with light knew that once a candle was lit, it exposed what had once been concealed in darkness. Light caused the darkness to flee and exposed what was actually there. The same is true in a spiritual aspect. Nothing can be hidden from the Light of Christ. His Light reveals what is there. It always exposes the sin and impurities within the heart. Just like a dark corner in a room being exposed by the light, the Light of Christ searches the deepest recesses of our hearts and exposes what is actually there.

- We may be able to conceal our thoughts and desires from others, but the Lord knows our hearts. In fact, He knows them better than we know them ourselves. There is nothing hidden from the Light of Christ. *1 Cor.4:5 – Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both*

will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. Heb.4:13 – Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

B. Light Penetrates (22b) – *neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad*. Similar to the ability of light to expose, it also has the ability to penetrate that which is in darkness. Light may be concealed, but it cannot be removed. Once the cover is removed, light races into the darkness, penetrating its depths. Jesus revealed that light will uncover the secret things, revealing what is there, penetrating the darkness once the Lord removes the cover with which we have tried to keep sin and unrighteousness concealed.

- The Lord knows our hearts, and His light has the ability to penetrate the darkness, revealing what is actually there. I am thankful for the day the Light of Christ shined in my heart, revealing the sin, and my need for salvation. Until the light penetrated the darkness, revealing the sin, I had no idea how great my need was. Once I saw through the Light, I realized my great need and responded by faith, receiving salvation.

C. Light Illuminates (23) – *If any man have ears to hear, let him hear*. Jesus often made similar statements following His parables, but these words were not without significance. They were a call to consider and respond to the truth received. This statement is very fitting in this particular parable. Jesus had spoken of the exposure and penetration of light. We all know that light also illuminates, providing guidance in darkness. These had heard truth, their hearts had been illuminated by the light of Christ, and they were now responsible for what they had received.

- I fear we often tend to be too casual with the truth we have received. The Lord has provided light for our benefit, and we are obligated to respond to the light. The truth we have received serves to guide our path as we walk with the Lord. We have a responsibility to heed what the light reveals, and avoid the pitfalls in our way, illuminated by the light. Those who know the truth, and willfully engage in sin, have no one to blame but themselves. Jesus provides light to guide our path, and we must continue to walk in the light. 1 John 1:7 – *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

III. The Responsibility to Light (24-25) – As Jesus concluded this parable, he revealed our responsibility to the light we have received. Consider:

A. The Admonition (24a) – **And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear.** Jesus came to earth to reveal God to man, and the truth of the Gospel. He was often opposed by the Pharisees who rejected truth. Jesus admonished the hearer to be careful what they listened to and whom they trusted to convey truth.

- This challenge remains today. Our world is filled with varied doctrines and opinions. All claim to be right and true, but real truth is eternal; it does not change. Like those of Jesus' day, we must ensure we heed only the truth of Christ. There are not many gods or many ways of salvation. Jesus alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! Be careful whom you listen to and trust to convey truth. Measure every man's doctrine by the Word of God. Truth will stand when all else is gone.

B. The Expectation (24b) – **And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.** Jesus revealed those who embraced truth and were committed to sharing truth could expect to receive more truth. Those who listened and responded by faith, would receive more and more from the Lord.

- This principle remains as well. If we desire to receive truth, we can expect to have our desire fulfilled. Those who seek the Lord, and His truth, are promised an abundant supply. The key to obtaining wisdom is to seek the Lord to provide. **James 1:5 – If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.** Clearly, many lack wisdom because they have no desire for wisdom. I pray we will draw nigh to the Lord in order to receive the wisdom we need in this difficult and dark day!

C. The Acquisition (25) – **For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.** As you study the Scriptures, it becomes evident that God's economy operates much differently than that of man. Jesus declared those who possess wisdom, earnestly desiring it, are promised to receive more; while those who lack wisdom, with no desire to obtain it, will lose what little they have. The truth of Christ is available for all who desire it, but we must seek it.

- This presents a challenge for every believer to be a good steward of all the Lord has provided. He gives wisdom for our good and His glory. We are expected to use the wisdom we currently possess in order to obtain more. I certainly desire to possess everything the Lord has to offer. I pray we all will be good stewards of that which the Lord has entrusted us.

Conclusion: I don't think anyone would deny that we are living in a dark day spiritually. The cure for darkness has always been the introduction of light. Those who walk in darkness are not even

aware of the severity of their darkness. They need the light of Christ to shine in their path, through the life of a believer. We are called to be salt and light. Our light was not given to be hidden away within our areas of comfort, but to shine forth in the darkness.

Have you been saved by grace, possessing the light of Christ? If so, is your light shining so other may see? If not, I urge you to seek the Lord to remove whatever's hiding your light, so you can shine for Him. If you do not possess this light, come to Christ for salvation!