

## *Christology, Discipleship, and Evangelism Part 2*

### *Mark 4:21-34*

#### *Series: Christ our Focus*

#### 1. Introduction

- a. A continuance of last week
  - i. We see Christology – Christ ministry
  - ii. Discipleship – our patterning our lives after him
  - iii. Evangelism – our reaching out to others

#### 2. Verse 21 - A Lamp

- a. Christology – lamp and light are frequent metaphor to God, His Son, and the Word in the Bible
  - i. **Of God – 2 Samuel 22:29** For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness.
  - ii. **Of Christ – John 8:12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
  - iii. **Of the Word – Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
  - iv. Genesis begins with light and Revelation ends with light
  - v. Jesus is the lamp of God who has come to bring light and revelation
- b. Oil lamps were to be elevated so that their light could be clearly seen.
  - i. The teachings of Jesus had to be elevated and not hidden.
- c. Discipleship – He said to them
  - i. Our hearts and lives should be fruitful, they should shine so as to benefit others and bring glory to God
  - ii. The word of God should be in full control over our lives
- d. Evangelism – Others will see our light and be led out of darkness

#### 3. Verse 22 – Concealment

- a. Men may try to cover up things, but they are unsuccessful. God brings everythin out into the open
  - i. **Ecclesiastes 12:14** For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

#### 4. Verse 23-24 – Ears to Listen –

- a. Hearing has three points stressed:
    - i. That they should hear to listen
      - 1. Want to listen to the truth
    - ii. What they should hear – what the spirit says
    - iii. How they should hear –
      - 1. The command to hear appears 3 times in two verses
      - 2. A stern warning about truly listening
        - a. Like prisoners with one chance to escape
  - b. God will measure to you and add
    - i. How you measure to others; in kindness or condemnation
  - c. More added to you – God’s gifts are always most generous. He is forever adding gift to gift, favor to favor, blessing to blessing. He gives according to his riches
    - i. **Ephesians 1:7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
5. Verse 25 – No standing still
- a. **Christology** - The degree to which someone listens to the parable will determine how far the kingdom of God will shine in his life.
  - b. What the listeners did with the truth of Jesus’ person and work determined their eternal destination.
  - c. **Discipleship** – In matters spiritual, standing still is impossible. A person either gains or loses; he either advances or declines.
  - d. The man who refuses to make proper use of his one talent loses even that.
6. Verses 26-29 - The Nothing to the Unimaginable.
- a. **Evangelism** - God’s plan must be and is going to be carried out.
  - b. Verses 26-27 – To man growth is a mystery
    - i. The seed – the word, gospel, mystery of incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and glorification
    - ii. Man lacks all control over the processes of germination and growth.
    - iii. The see is sprouting and growing but man is unaware how this growth takes place.
    - iv. All the farmer can do is trust because he cannot causes the seed to sprout and grow.

- v. **1 Corinthians 3:6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.
- c. Verse 28 – the seed reveals its potency
  - i. The earth produces by itself – automatically
    - 1. Grows independently – miraculously
    - 2. The plants take over a field – what potency
    - 3. Little by little the gospel travels from one nation to another, and increasingly causes its power to be felt in every sphere of life.
      - a. **Proverbs 4:18** But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
- d. Verse 29 – The harvest-time spells victory – At once he puts in his sickle
  - i. There will be a time of reaping
  - ii. The arrival of God’s kingdom
    - 1. **James 5:7-8** Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. (8) You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

7. Verses 30-32 – The Mustard Seed

- a. **Christology** – Christ and his ministry is the mustard seed
- b. Christ’s kingdom, compared to the Roman Empire, was insignificant in human eyes.
- c. The prestige of Jesus was small
- d. The little flock grew and became a countless multitude
- e. The kingdom of God, once planted, expands and keeps on expanding.
- f. The birds, all men are blessed – every nation, race, and etc.
- g. Within forty years of Christ’s death the gospel had reached all the great cultural centers of the Roman World
- h. **Discipleship and Evangelism** –
  - i. Have patience, exercise faith, keep on praying, and keep on working.
  - ii. God’s work will not fail

8. Verses 33-34 – Parables

- a. Verse 33 – as they were able to hear – and some were not
- b. Verse 34 – Further illumination to those that are his.

9. Benediction –

- a. **John 14:1-4** "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. (2) In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (4) And where I go you know, and the way you know."