

The Lamp under the Basket (Mark 4:21-25)

- Jesus continued to instruct His disciples about the importance of listening to truth
- He used parables to confound those who hated Him & misunderstood Him
- His parables were not meant to make truth inaccessible to earnest listeners
- Encourage true listeners to apply themselves to the truth & it would become clear
- Disciples were to learn the truth so they could declare the mysteries to the faithful

I. The Lamp of Divine Teaching Is Meant to Give Light (v21)

- Fertile hearts that received Jesus words were likened by Jesus to shining lights
- The lives of Jesus' followers are to be fruitful & shine for the benefit of others
- The Word is seen as a seed earlier but now as a light or lamp in a dark place
- It made no sense to hide it under a bed or a bushel: Pharisees obscured the truth
- Believers were to live the Word out; it was meant to give light & lead to true life

II. Parables Were an Effective Means of Teaching Divine Truth (v22)

- Men try to cover things up, but in the end God will always bring it into the light
- Parable hid the truth, enclosed it like a jewel in a casket, intended to be discovered
- Christ appointed the apostles to teach & make plain the truths to all who will hear

III. Parables: Darkness to the Unbelieving & Light to the Believing (v23)

- When Christ speaks & people don't understand it's no fault of the Word of God
- As the parable of the sower & soil showed, the way they hear affects how they see
- Jesus instructs the disciples, he stressed three things about how they hear
 - 1) *That* they need to listen (4: 9,23): hearing as opposed to not hearing
 - 2) *What* they need to hear (24): what to hear over & against what not to hear
 - 3) *How* they should hear: attentively, judiciously over & against how not to hear

V. Accountable for Receiving the Truth & What We Do with It (v24, 25)

- In matters spiritual standing still is impossible. Whoever has shall more be given
- With reference to the disciples, Jesus said they had "kept your Word (John 17:16)
- Though they believed & erred in many ways, the beginning has been made
- According to heaven's rule they would continue to grow in grace and knowledge, love, holiness & joy, ever deepening (Ezek 47:15)
- On the other hand, whoever does not grow in faith & love for Christ & the truth
- Whatever the knowledge of truth he though he had would be taken away from him