

IS A CANDLE BROUGHT TO BE PUT UNDER A BUSHEL MARK 4:21-25

Text: Mark 4:21

Introduction:

In our text today, the Lord gives us some insight into light and the place it is to occupy in spiritual matters.

Notice:

1. THE LIGHT HAS ITS PURPOSE (VS. 21)

Mark 4:21

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?

The Lord used a common image to teach a spiritual truth.

It was used to provide light in houses that were naturally dark.

A candle placed under a basket would be extinguished, and wouldn't fulfill its purpose.

Note:

The candle if under the basket would still be a candle, but would it would have no purpose at all.

A candle is not to be put under a bed. It would set the bed on fire and destroy it. The candle would be serving the wrong purpose.

This parable is designed to illustrate the purpose of spiritual light. When Jesus shared the Word of God, He was giving light to the world. His light was given to speak to people trapped in spiritual darkness; to show them that there was a way for them to be saved.

While Jesus was here, He was “the Light of the world”, John 9:5. Our Lord’s light burned brightly teaching men about the love of God, John 3:16.

Our Lord’s light was not designed to be hidden away. He came to this world not to hide the truth from men, but to reveal the truth to those in darkness.

2. THE LIGHT HAS ITS POWERS (vs. 22)

Mark 4:22

²² For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

The Lord reminds us that light holds the power to make hidden things plain. The light that Jesus came into this

world to display not only reveals the hidden things of God to man; it also reveals the hidden things within man! That is why so many people who have heard the Gospel message have rejected it.

The Gospel is a message of salvation, but it is also a message of confrontation. It is a message that reveals the darkness of the human heart.

That is a painful experience for the lost sinner. Yet, when the darkness is exposed to the light, the darkness will have to flee and salvation will be the result.

3. THE LIGHT HAS ITS PRIVILEGES (VS. 24)

Mark 4:24

²⁴ 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.

This verse is rich in truth. We are cautioned to listen to the right voices. We are counseled to pass the truth on to others. We are comforted by a precious promise.

A. The Caution – What you hear

There are many voices competing for our attention in these days. We must be careful that we only hear the Lord's voice as He calls us to Himself. The right voice will always speak words that line up with the Bible and point you to Jesus.

We need to be aware of how we hear that voice as well. Like Abraham, Gen. 22:1-14, we need to be ever listening for the voice of the Lord to speak to our hearts.

Genesis 22:1-14

¹ And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*. ² And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. ³ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. ⁵ And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid *it* upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? ⁸ And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. ⁹ And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I. ¹² And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me. ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and

Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said *to* this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

B. The Counsel – What measure ye mete it

You shall be treated according to the use you make of your opportunities of learning. If you consider it well, and make a good improvement of what you hear, you shall be well rewarded. If not, your reward shall be small.

See Matt 7:1-2

Matthew 7:1-2

¹ Judge not, that ye be not judged. ² For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

The Lord has called us to not only hear, but also to share the truth we have received.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Of all the things you can do with your life, perhaps none is greater than taking to time to share your faith and the things God has shown you with others. We have been given a great privilege in being called to proclaim the Gospel to the world!

C. The Comfort – shall more be given

The idea here is that those who listen to what the Lord is telling them, and obey Him will see Him reveal even more truth to them.

- Did you learn something about the Lord in your private time today – Share it with someone else.
- Did you learn something in Sunday School – Share it with someone else.

As you give away the truth the Lord has revealed to you, He will give you more truth. If you hoard up the truth and keep it to yourself, the Lord has no reason to give you more truth.

We are called to be rivers of living water.

John 7:38

³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

The truth should always be flowing through us.

4. THE LIGHT HAS ITS PROMISE (VS. 25)**Mark 4:25**

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.

The person who hears the truth and passes it on will see his ability to receive truth expanded. As this kind of person hears the truth and gives it away, the Lord continually reveals more truth to him. He grows in the things of God in ways he could never have imagined. That is the promise to the person who gives away the light!

The person who rejects truth will see his ability to recognize truth diminished. Not only will this kind of individual receive less truth, they will eventually lose their grasp of the truth they once had.

Illustration:

There are things that people learn how to do in school – for instance algebra, or geometry. However if you don't continue to do these things you will forget it.

Rejecting God's truth is far more serious than failing to stay brushed up on your mathematics. Rejecting spiritual truth will develop into a tragedy in the life of every person who rejects the light!

Close:

The little candle holds tremendous power. It has the ability to dispel darkness. The candle gives its light at great cost to itself. As the candle gives away its precious light, its very life is consumed.

This is a perfect illustration of what Jesus did for us. He paid a high price to bring His light to the lost. He died on the cross so that we might have life and light. When He saved us, He kindled that light within our hearts. We must let our lights shine so that a world lost in darkness might see the way to come to God.

It may cost us everything to give the light to others, but we must be willing to pay the price. We must never be guilty of **hoarding** the light; **hiding** the light or **hindering** the light. We must let our light shine for the glory of God!

You can't hide from the light. The truth of God's Word will confront you some day. It may have already done so today. It may be that the Lord has spoken to your heart; revealed your sins; and pointed out the truth of

the Gospel. If so, you need to come to Him and be saved! Please do not reject the truth!

To the Christian – are you sharing the truth, and that which the Lord has taught you with others?