

Mark 4:35- Lamp and Seeds Parables Dustin Largent

- Last week – Parable of the Sower – Parable of the Soils (Hearts)
- The Parable of the Soil is **about the hearts of the receivers of the Word.**
- **Discouraging Parable-** One in four chance of right kind of heart (soil).
- Like Vegas. Why bother? The odds are against me from the start.
- If most people will have a heart that's not good for the seed of God's Word to root and grow, maybe I'll just not share it!
- **But Jesus doesn't want us to be discouraged, so Jesus continues.**

Mark 4:21-25 - ²¹ *He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand?"* ²² *For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.* ²³ *If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear."*

- **Watch what Jesus did here! Jesus shifted here from talking about the people receiving the word (soil) to the ones sharing it.** You and me.
- **Why? You don't have any control over the soil. You DO have control over what you do with the seed of the Word of God.**
- **If I'm going to follow the example of Jesus, should I share openly the Word of God or am I to hide it from some people?** Cuz Jesus, back in Mark 4:11-12 said, *"The secret of the kingdom of God has been given you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables 12 so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing be never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven."*
- **By revealing truth in parables, only some people are understanding the spiritual point He is making. Who? Those who are good soil.**
- **All Jesus' ministry is hidden from those who don't dig deeper.**
- **See Mark 4:24** ²⁴ *"Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.*
- **So, the big question we are all asking is, "Is Jesus trying to hide the truth from some people?" – If He is, should we? Jesus isn't withholding seed, just not everyone is going to understand it. Different hearts (soil)**
- **Answer – You are to be like a lamp and expose the World to the Light of the Word**
- If I go into a pitch dark cave and turn on a lamp.
 - Everything will be exposed but not everyone will see everything.
 - A Lamp will expose both good and bad. **Your sole duty bear light.**
- **Are you the light or the Lamp?**

Matthew 5:14-16 - ¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.* ¹⁵ *Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.* ¹⁶ *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- **What is the light that the people will see? Your good deeds that cause people go glorify God. It's not always talking.**
- **If we are the lamp, what is the flame?**

John 8:12 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Mark 4:24-25 - ²⁵ *Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them."*

- **Why "consider carefully what you here"?** God responds to us based on how we respond to what we hear.
- **If you don't use it you lose it.**
- Jordan river serves 2 large lakes- Sea of Galilee (full of fish & life) and Dead Sea (nothing living at all. Stagnant. Lifeless)
 - The dead sea has no outlet and the Sea of Galilee does. The Sea of Galilee continues to produce life because it passes on what it receives.
- **Mark 4:26-29** - ²⁶ *He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.* ²⁷ *Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.* ²⁸ *All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.* ²⁹ *As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."*
- Here's the point. The kingdom of God works like this:
- You are the farmer. You scatter seed (you have control of that).
- The sprouting and growing of the seed (the regeneration of the person) is something God does in a way we don't really understand completely.
- Vs. 27. We sleep and get up. We aren't involved in that part. God does the work of making the Word sprout and grow in a persons life.
- **We work in partnership with Go doing our part, but the real work is left to Him.**
- **So we just shine our light and share the word and that's it? NO.**
 - Once the internal miraculous heart change happens and the person is ripe for decision, we just back in to harvest.
- **2 jobs. Sow seed (let lamp shine) and harvest.**
- **Share God's word and allow God to germinate it, then when you see they are ready, lead them to make a decision.**
- **Notice there's a gap here. An area we aren't involved in and this can take time. And its not our responsibility.**
- **Mark 4:30-34** ³⁰ *Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?"* ³¹ *It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.* ³² *Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."* ³³ *With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.* ³⁴ *He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.*
- **So the last parable taught how the kingdom spreads – God's doing. He grows the seed and we harvest.**
- **The point of the parable is in the contrast between the size of the seed when sown and the size of the plant when it is grown.**
- It starts small with a humble carpenter talking, then disciples then the world
- **The expectation was start big (KING). It may be small now, but. . . .**