

Lesson 3: The Lamp on a Stand

Reference: **Please Read:** Matthew 5:14-16; 6:22-23; Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18; 11:33-36

Theme: The impact of God's Word in our lives to influence others

Context: Used multiple settings:

Matthew 5:15-16: Sermon on the Mount- behavior and conduct

Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18: The Word as Spiritual Seed in the Parable of the Sower

Luke 6:33-36: Jesus Teaching the People

Introduction:

Due to the fact Jesus referenced this parable multiple places is important, because it speaks to a wide range of application it has; we only have a short time, so we will focus on certain parts.

We are the Light of this World Now

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."

Jesus said He was the light of the world at the time of His earthly ministry. Sometimes I get the impression from those who quote this passage that it's still all up to Jesus to do all the work in getting people saved- even though He had sent the 12 and 72 out the preach the Gospel. Jesus went on to say in John 9:5, "*While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*" Jesus is no longer in the world physically, but we are as His Body.

Question: "What does light do for our lives? How does this metaphor apply to us today?"

John 1:4-5, "In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it."

- All light is produced by something, either oil or electricity etc. burning to generate it
- The light that emanates from us is produced by the Eternal Life of God we received
- Born again from the very love and life nature of God producing the fruit of the Spirit

2 Corinthians 4:7, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

Getting that Light out there

We are now shine the light of Jesus in this world as the body of Christ. We are the visible representation of Jesus Christ in the earth today. We are ambassadors of Christ and ministers of reconciliation. We are the only Jesus the lost will see in this life- so let that light shine!

- Remember that song: "This little light of mine, I'm going let it shine..."
- As we just mentioned, the capacity and potential is certainly there but not automatic
- **Please Read: Romans 13:11-14**
- **Question:** "So how do we clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ?"

This is a very important question for us Christians, because the manner in which we obey this admonition will determine success or failure. For example, a well-intentioned Christian can read this passage and run off and try to obey it in their own strength, fail and be frustrated.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- Through our faith in God's Word we appropriate His Grace and power to transform us
- **Please Read: Deuteronomy 30:11-14;**
- Please note that true faith will produce corresponding actions as seen in James 2:14-26

What happens to us when we hold back

- Remember what Jesus said about the chap who hid his talent/mina in those parables
 - o God's intent is that we take what we have received and multiply it in others
- **Please Read: Luke 19:20-27**
- Why don't we let our light shine? Consider the parable of the sower in Mark 4:14-20
 - o Hard Heart: calloused and simply don't care
 - o Persecution: Embarrassed and afraid of what people would say
 - o Thorns: Too busy making money and doing our own thing enjoying life

Romans 1:16-17, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Question: "Do the people around you know that you're a Christian and how do they know?"

The Eye is the Lamp of the Body

Matthew 6:22-23

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

- Jesus had stated that the eye is the lamp of the body; let's study this a little bit
- Matthew 6:22-23 was written within the context of having *“Treasures in Heaven.”*
- Where our treasure is, there our heart will be also- speaking of our priorities & focus
- Our eyes represent what is important to us, what we are looking at has our attention

Matthew 6:33-34, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

- Our eyes like our ears are gateways into our mind and spirit- the windows to our soul
- People we hang out with, where we choose to be, listen to and watch influences us
- Where our focus is set upon in life determines our conduct, behavior and lifestyle
- So what are we allowing into our lives through the windows of our soul, our eyes?

Question: “How can we guard ourselves from influences that distract us from Jesus?”

Proverbs 4:23, *“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”*

Proverbs 23:7 KJV, *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”*

1 Corinthians 15:33-34, *“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’”*

1 Timothy 5:22, *“...do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.”*

- The Bible instructs us where to set our attention; on Jesus though faith in His Word
- What helps us in what we think on (Php. 4:4-8), is what we look at- Romans 12:1-2
- Peter who walked on water; as long as his eyes were on Jesus- Mt. 14:28-33

Colossians 3:1-2

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Hebrews 3:1, “Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.”

- The world view we have, the perspective & paradigm of life must be Christ centered
- Otherwise we will have a cloudy and distorted understanding of the world around us