

WEDNESDAY

July 24

Lamp and Measuring Basket

Read Mark 4:21-23. What is Jesus' special emphasis in the parable of the lamp?

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?

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

23 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

JOHN 1:9 - ALL have been given light. Everyone who comes into the world. What are we doing with it?

Hiding it under the bed or bushel (that is refusing to shine at home or in our work place). You know what happens when you put a lit candle under a bed or under a bushel of wheat - fire damage loss. That is the inevitable result of hiding the light that God has given to each one of us. God is calling us to share the light even if it's just a candle stick worth of light. Share what you know about God. Share the little light that you have. Don't hide it from your family. Don't hide it from your

fellow workers. Share it. People need to see God. They need to see God in you.

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Houses in that part of the world in Jesus' day varied in size and construction, all depending on location and wealth. The houses came to follow a Greek pattern of being built around a courtyard but with varying levels of sophistication. Or Jesus may be talking about smaller houses of peasants. Big house or small house, the issue is the principle: one day the truth about Jesus will be revealed.

Jesus asks two questions in Mark 4:21. The first one expects a negative answer—"The lamp is not brought to be placed under the basket or under the bed, is it?" The second question expects a positive answer—"It is brought to be placed on the lampstand, isn't it?" Jesus presents an absurd, almost humorous scenario to make His point. Lamps are for giving light, or they lose their purpose. Mark 4:22 explains the parable by reference to secrets being made public. Anyone whose email or computer has been hacked knows about secrets being made public! But what Jesus is talking about is the gospel.

THERE IS A DAY AHEAD OF US WHEN ALL THAT HAS BEEN DONE IN SECRET WILL BE MADE MANIFEST. THE RECORD BOOKS OF HEAVEN WILL BE OPENED AND EVERY SECRET SIN EVEN EVERY SECRET THOUGHT WILL BE EXPOSED.

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty of man*.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be good*, or whether *it be evil*. Eccl. 12:13, 14

24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.

25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid. 1 Timothy 5:24, 25

Read Mark 4:24, 25. What lesson is Jesus driving at with the parable of the measuring basket?

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.

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.

WHAT SHALL BE GIVEN? GRACE! LOVE! MERCY! LIGHT!

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38

CONTEXT - Luke's version of sermon on the mount -

In many locations in the world, fresh produce is sold in open markets. Sellers typically have a device for measuring the product they are selling. It is a common practice of such sellers to add just a bit more to a sale to help the buyer feel he/she is being treated fairly. Jesus picks up on how good sellers treat buyers to make a point about openness to the truth. If one is open and follows the light, he/she will get even more. But if he/she rejects the light, even what they had before will be taken away.

How can we learn better the principle that with what measure you use, it will be measured to you? Think about it in all your dealings with others.