

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES FOR KINGDOM GROWTH
Mark Series: Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel

LISTEN TO THE LIGHT:

THE LIFE AND LIGHT OF CHRIST DISPLAYS THE FRUIT OR FAILURE OF EVERYTHING

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 4:21-41

11 November A.D. 2012

Mark 4:21-23: Christ's light may at times seem hidden but it will shine light on all.

21 And He was saying to them, "A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket

brought: see Mark 1:7 for same word re: the one *coming* after John the Baptizer. The word can have the sense of appearing (coming before the public).

See O.T. references to the light in 2 Sam 22:29 & Psa 119:105. In Matt 5 Jesus' disciples become light.

RE: 4:22, see John 1:4-5 where Jesus is the light of men...

4:23 Listen to the light!

Mark 4:24-25: Listen to the light of Christ you have and make it the measure of all you value.

24 And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to.

4:24 is literally "*by the measure you measure it will be measured to you, and will be added to you*"

See Mat 7:2 & Luk 35 for parallels with slightly different applications.

Some questions:

To what/who have you listened which instructs you in how you measure/value/evaluate others?'

What/how have you heard that leads you to invest in God's kingdom each week?

Are we training/raising our children merely to be "Christianly" moral or to see their lives in relation to Christ's kingdom?

Interact with these statements:

If morality isn't missional it isn't moral; if morality isn't grace-filled, King praising, it isn't moral. If obedience isn't tied to Caller and calling it's not pleasing to God.

*What Scriptures come to mind that teach that **why** we do what we do is crucial to **what** we do?*

Listen to Jesus; choose him as your light; let him illumine your heart/room/life/choices... Bear fruit and more fruit will be given.

Mark 4:26-29: Sow kingdom seed with confidence, for the word of God is powerful.

26 And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil;

Seeds again! What God is doing is not lofty or far away, but tied to our local doings and goings!

Workers in God's church, God's fields: sow seeds!

Parents sow and plant seeds.

4:28 The soil produces "by itself": Greek *automate!*

2 Peter 3:4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

Joel 3:13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.
Come, tread, for the wine press is full;
The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.

Revelation 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe."

Mark 4:30-34: The kingdom's seemingly small beginnings will bring significant results.

30 And He said, "How shall we picture the kingdom of God,.... 31 *It is like a mustard seed*

See also, Mat 13:31-22; Luk 13:18-19

Garland, David. "IMAGE: MUSTARD SEEDS" In *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Volume 1, Matthew, Mark, Luke*. 233. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

This background may point to more subtle meanings hidden in the parable of the mustard bush. The tree mentioned in the Old Testament is planted on a high and lofty mountain (Ezek. 17:22), and its top reaches to heaven so that it is visible to the ends of the earth (Dan. 4:11, 20). When one is talking about the kingdom of God and birds of heaven lodging under the protection of trees with great branches, the Jewish listener was conditioned by Scripture and tradition to think in terms of the salvation of pagans through Israel's triumph. Does this parable cleverly undermine notions of grandeur with its jarring image of a mustard bush?

Jesus explains these truth to his disciples, to us, expecting us to listen and not lose heart.

Do not separate your personal discipleship from what we are building collectively in our churches, in the kingdom work of missions, locally, nationally and worldwide.

Let the surprise of smallness, but powerful kingdom seed being planted in people and in places jar you to see afresh what we are about. LISTEN. HEAR.

Mark 4:35-40: Jesus leads his disciples into storms so they'll learn to fear without being afraid.

35 On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." See *Mar 9:6 & 16:8*

Parallels to Jonah: see Jon 1:10 (men exceedingly afraid), 15 (throwing Jonah overboard and the seas ceasing their raging), 16 (the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice) See also, Gen 1:2.

Psalms 107:23-32, espec. 28-29: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, And He brought them out of their distresses. 29 He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were hushed