

Theme: Jesus is the Lamp Who came to reveal what was concealed, and how we respond to His Word now determines our future destiny.

I. Intro - Lamp

- A. A question we ask kids at the Bible display (photo)
- B. This is an ancient lamp one could carry around
- C. Jesus uses the lamp as part of the parable for today
- D. What is He telling us about the Kingdom and our response?

II. The Lamp of the Lord

- A. An intriguing saying about the lamp
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?”
Mark 4:21
 - 1. On its surface, it is easy to understand and true
 - 2. Lamps give light so you don’t hide them
 - 3. But there is something unusual about this lamp!
 - 4. “The lamp does not come to be put under a bowl...”
 - a. “you bring” is actually “the Lamp does not come”
 - b. A strange Lamp that moves on its own!
 - c. Who or what is this Lamp?
- B. Jesus - The Lamp of the LORD
 - 1. God Himself was the Lamp for His people
You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light. 2 Samuel 22:29
 - a. God is the Lamp; He gives light in the darkness

- b. God reveals even things that have been hidden
- 2. The Davidic King, the Messiah, is the Lamp
 - a. David was the lamp of Israel
But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to David’s rescue; he struck the Philistine down and killed him. Then David’s men swore to him, saying, “Never again will you go out with us to battle, **so that the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished.**” 2 Samuel 21:17
 - b. The line of Davidic kings was called the lamp
Here I will make a horn grow for David and **set up a lamp for my anointed one.** Psalm 132:17
Nevertheless, because of the covenant the Lord had made with David, the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David. **He had promised to maintain a lamp for him and his descendants forever.** 2 Chronicles 21:7
 - c. God had promised to maintain the Davidic line, the Messiah, the Lamp, even through the exile.
 - 3. The New Testament reveals Jesus is the Light
“For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³² **a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.**” Luke 2:30–32

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

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.
John 8:12
 - a. Simeon knew the Messiah was the light of God’s revelation and glory

- b. Jesus is the very Light coming to shine into the darkness of this world. But the darkness does not understand and even opposes the light!
- c. "I AM the Light of the world" - one of Jesus' I AM statements in John

C. Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant promise and expectation for the Lamp of David, the Light of the World, to come to bring God's revelation and glory.

III. Concealed and Revealed

A. The Lamp comes to reveal

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. Mark 4:21–22

1. A lamp is not to be hidden but to give light!
2. A lamp should be seen and give light so that everything else can be seen!
3. Concealing the lamp would mean it would not be seen - and nothing else would be seen either!
4. "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else." CS Lewis *Theology As Poetry*

B. The Lamp is concealed but will be revealed!

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." Mark 4:21–22

1. Jesus is the Lamp - but He seems to be concealed!

- a. He has been telling people NOT to tell about His healings!
- b. He is speaking in parables, and the Kingdom seems hidden!

2. But though He is 'hidden' now, He will be 'disclosed' in the proper time.

- a. In the later events of Jesus' ministry and especially in the events of Holy Week Jesus the lamp was revealed
- b. In the transfiguration, the glory of Jesus was revealed to the disciples
- c. On Palm Sunday the whole city was stirred at His arrival and He was welcomed as the Messianic King
- d. He cleansed the Temple, refuted the Sadducees, Pharisees, and the scribes, showing His superior wisdom and power.
- e. He pronounced woes and predicted the destruction of the Temple in 70AD.
- f. He was declared to be the King of the Jews at His trial and crucifixion.

3. In the resurrection, Jesus was revealed in power! regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was **declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.** Romans 1:3–4

- a. Jesus' Power and glory were concealed during His earthly life, only seen in glimpses through His teaching and miracles.
- b. In the resurrection, the veil was removed and His Power and glory were revealed for all to see - He is the Son of God!

4. At His return, Jesus' full glory and power will be seen and acknowledged by all!

C. The Lamp is revealing concealed things even now

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.” John 3:19–21

1. The Light has come - but we preferred darkness!
2. Those devoted to evil hate the Light and will not come in but rather scurry away into the darkness!
3. But some hear and respond to the Truth and come into the Light - these are the people of God.
4. The Lamp is shining into the dark corners, revealing the concealed things of our hearts.
5. This revealing will be finalized on the Final Day
This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. Romans 2:16
 - a. The Lamp will reveal all the secrets of our hearts
 - b. Nothing will be hidden, everything will be brought into the Light on that day

IV. Applying the Word

A. Receive the revealing Word now!

“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. ²⁴ Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you — and even more. ²⁵ Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. Mark 4:23–25

1. Jesus gives us the ‘applying the Word’!
2. Verse 23 and 24 both say - HEAR!
3. We must HEAR - which requires considering His Word carefully to think through it so we might understand and apply it to our lives.
4. When the Word shines into the corners of my heart and reveals my sin, I am tempted to stop hearing - but this is to refuse the medicine that will heal!
5. We also must continue to hear because the more we hear and receive, the more we can hear and receive!
6. My present listening and receiving determine my future capacity to hear and receive. If I hear and receive today, I will be given more tomorrow. But if neglect or refuse hearing, my capacity for tomorrow is diminished.
7. My posture toward God and His Word today is either softening or hardening my heart, opening or closing my eyes to the light, and opening or closing my ears to God's revelation.
8. This is also what prepares me for the final revealing - judgment day!

9. On that Day, every secret will be laid bare before God - we will not be able to shut our eyes to the light or stop our ears to the Word.
10. If we have refused the King, His Light, and His Word our sin will be exposed, our rebellion revealed, and all will be lost.
11. But if we receive the King, His Light, and His Word now - the Light will reveal Christ and His righteousness given to us!
12. For those in Christ, judgment day will not be a shameful revealing of all we have done wrong, but a revealing of the ways His Spirit worked in us and a time of deep joy and reward!
13. Look to Christ now, and receive His Word each day to develop an ever-expanding capacity to experience joy, both now and in eternity!

B. The Table of Revelation

1. 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
2. Time for the Spirit to reveal sin or hardness
3. The Table of Revelation - where our sin is revealed, but so is God's grace to forgive!

Concealed and Revealed

Mark 4:21-25

April 2, 2023

Communion

Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Kingdom of God; evangelism and missions; Word of God; judgment; heaven, hell, and eternity

The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26

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 him hear.” ²⁴ “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you — and even more. ²⁵ Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.” Mark 4:21–25