

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 21ST–22ND, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

LIGHT (MARK 4:21–25)

WHAT, OR WHO, IS THE LAMP?

Many of us miss what Jesus is saying in this story of the lamp. We think the lamp is our testimony of faith, or the gospel, or Christianity. **The true lamp is Jesus!**

- Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12). Only in Him and through Him can we be delivered from darkness into light.

LET THAT LIGHT SHINE

Lamps, especially in the time of Jesus, were necessary to operate at nighttime; no light, no sight. Only a foolish person would bring light into a home and then immediately hide it under a basket or bed.

- Do we hide Jesus out of **fear of man** or let Him shine in and out of us **for His glory**?

JESUS WILL NOT BE HIDDEN OR DISMISSED

Because of the wrong expectations of the people, the full revelation of who Jesus is was “hidden” from most of them. But a day was coming when the full deity of Jesus would be seen by all. On that day, **every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God** (Philippians 2).

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!

The people of Jesus' day made life about lots of things: religion, revolution, pleasure, power. Having “ears to hear” meant having a spirit of discernment to see through these false idols.

- Our culture is still blinded today. We seek purpose and joy in everything but Jesus. **Only Jesus truly satisfies a thirsty heart.**

WANT MORE JESUS? GET MORE JESUS!

As we come to Jesus with baskets ready to receive Him as the Bread of life, He fills them with Himself and loves to overflow within us. **Jesus is eternal and will never come to the end of Himself.**

- Are we hungry and thirsty for Jesus? **He wants us to keep coming and coming to Him!**

ARE WE SEEKING JESUS?

Jesus tells them that if you are seeking the lamp, Himself, you will find it, and the more you come, the more you will receive. Those who will not seek Him will lose everything.

- The eternal reward of Christianity is not heaven, or eternal life, or earthly riches. **Jesus is the reward! Do you desire Him?**

WORTH IT (MARK 4:26–29)

THE UNIQUENESS OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Jesus talked a lot about the Kingdom of God and what it is like so His listeners could understand that it is different from earthly kingdoms. Earthly kingdoms depend on the might and wisdom of men and women. God's Kingdom depends on the sovereignty and wisdom of God.

- **We have the privilege of joining God's work.**

OUR ROLE

Jesus said a man scattered the seed. Farmers would throw seed on the ground. It was a simple process that could produce great rewards. But once the seed was thrown, their work was basically done.

- **Our work is to share God's Word, both the Bible and the gospel, with people.**

HE IS ALWAYS WORKING AND NEVER STOPS

With his work done, the farmer goes about the normal activities of life and waits on the seed and soil to do its work. This is a slow process filled with hope that there will be a crop.

- **For everything we see God do, there are a million more things we cannot see. God empowers our little efforts with His power.**

THE JOY OF THE HARVEST

The farmer gets to see the seed become a sprout, a blade, a head, and then the full grain. His work is rewarded, and he gets to enjoy the harvest.

- **Our great joy is seeing lives changed as we share the good news of the gospel of Jesus with those far from God.**

BRINGING IN THE HARVEST

It was all worth it in the end. The crop is ready, and it is time to bring the harvest in.

- The Kingdom of God grows slowly, person by person. Some believe the gospel and others reject it. **If we have breath, we can choose Jesus and be a part of His great end-time harvest.**

LITTLE IS MUCH (MARK 4:30–34)

JUST YOU WAIT

In Jesus' time, the mustard seed was used by many teachers as an illustration. Though it was the smallest of seeds in that time, when fully grown, it was big enough for birds to nest in its shade.

- **The Kingdom began with 11 insignificant, scared men who changed the world.**

NOW LOOK AT THE KINGDOM

From those Apostles came a movement that continues today and will continue until Jesus comes at the end of this age. Little is much in the hands of Jesus.

- Do we believe that Jesus can use us to do **“above and beyond all that we ask or think”** (Ephesians 3:20–21)?

JESUS KINDLY REVEALS TRUTH (REVELATION)

The disciples could sometimes be a little dense in their understanding. While sometimes frustrated, Jesus was patient to teach them, knowing they would take these teachings to the world.

- Through the Spirit and the Bible, **Jesus is still teaching us, His disciples, today.**

POWER (MARK 4:35–41)

STORMY SEA

Jesus had been teaching all day by the Sea of Galilee and now evening had come. Jesus wanted to go to the other side, so they set off with some other boats and soon encountered a great storm that swamped their boat.

- The Sea of Galilee is 700 feet below sea level and prone to severe pop-up storms.

THE HUMANITY OF JESUS

While all this was happening, Jesus was asleep at the back of the boat on a cushion. Teaching all day (or 5 services!) takes a lot of energy and He was tired. This is the only account in the Gospels of Jesus sleeping.

- **Jesus is fully man, so He can identify with His people and provide all we need.**

FAITHLESSNESS PRODUCES FEAR

The disciples feared for their lives because of a lack of faith. Jesus could sleep because He trusted in His Father. The disciples woke Jesus and rebuked Him for not saving them.

- **Jesus is not a magic genie jumping at our commands. He is our sovereign God working out His plans and purposes.**

THE DEITY OF JESUS

While Jesus is fully man, He is also fully God. While on earth, His deity was not diminished one iota. He is the eternal Son of God who took on flesh without losing any aspect of His deity. **As the Creator who spoke all things into existence, His voice commands creation so that even winds and waves obey.**

JESUS BRINGS CALM

A great calm came upon the wind and settled on the water at Jesus' command. He asks His disciples piercing questions that bring to light their lack of faith.

- **Struggles and difficulties sometimes strengthen our faith and sometimes expose our lack of faith.**

A QUESTION STILL BEING ASKED

The disciples were terrified at the demonstration of power they just observed, and they asked one another, “Who then is this?”

- Our world still asks this question about Jesus. Are we living in a way that shows them we have no doubts about who Jesus is? **Are we showing them the Light?**

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

- Do we believe Jesus is the true Light from Heaven and is the only source of salvation for the world?
- If we believe it, are we sharing Jesus with others, or does fear of man shut us down?
- **If we believe He is the Light, do we dabble with darkness or walk in His light?**

YOUR KINGDOM COME

- If we are going to help the Kingdom grow, we have to believe it is more satisfying than anything the kingdom of the world can offer.
- God is at work all around us. Are we actively looking so that we can join Him?
- If we believe the Kingdom exists, are we choosing to follow the King? We can!

JESUS IS MORE THAN JUST A GOOD MAN

- Do we have a **great faith** in our **great God** who can calm the **great storms** and **great fears** of our lives?
- Jesus has been in storms, too. We have a Savior who understands and will help.
- **Jesus is not a man to be bargained with but the King to whom we give our lives.**

WHO/WHAT ARE WE LIVING FOR?

- Has the Light captured **your heart**?
- If so, has the Kingdom captured **your imagination**?
- If so, have those outside the Kingdom captured **your compassion**?
- If so, **are you letting your light shine before people so that they can know the Light?**