

Date: May 17, 2026
Series: Mark: The Sovereign, Suffering Servant
Title: The Warning and Reward of God's Word
Text: Mark 4:21-25



INTRODUCTION

Note: In the end of the Parable of the Sower Jesus defined “good soil” as those who accept the Word AND bear fruit. In the Parable of the Hidden Lamp the focus shifts from how we **receive** the Word to how we **reflect** it.

Mark 4:20

I. THE SOURCE AND PURPOSE OF THE LAMP (v. 21)

The person who has been **changed** by the Word of God is designed to be a **visible** witness of the Gospel.

(Isaiah 42:6; Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 8:16; John 8:12; Revelation 1:20)

II. THE GOSPEL'S GUARANTEED EXPOSURE (v. 22)

The Gospel was hidden for a time so that it could be **shared** with everyone through the **Church**.

(Matthew 28:19-20; Colossians 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Ephesians 5:11-13)

III. THE NECESSITY OF ACTIVE LISTENING (v. 23-24a)

The believer who truly **listens** to God's Word will **actively obey** what they have heard.

(Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 4:20-27; Hebrews 2:1; James 1:22)

IV. THE REALITY OF KINGDOM GROWTH (v 24b-25)

Those who humbly welcome God's rule will **receive** more understanding, greater light, bear more fruit, AND have stronger confidence in Christ while those who ignore God's Word will **lose** everything in the dark.

(2 Chronicles 16:9; Isaiah 60:1-3; Matthew 25:29; Revelation 2:5)

CONCLUSION

"We were not meant to be spiritual sponges, continually sucking up God's truth but never giving it out. We were meant to be lamps. The light that a Christian has is not his own to keep; it is a gift from the King to be used for the benefit of a dark world. If we do not let our light shine before men, we are not only useless to the world; we are unfaithful to our Lord." - **J.C. Ryle**

One person the Lord wants me to share the light with is _____

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. How does being "good soil" (v. 20) naturally lead to being a "lamp on a stand" (v. 21)? Why is a private faith a contradiction?
2. In our "walks" through life, who is watching how you respond to God's Word? How does your obedience (or lack thereof) impact those "younger" in the faith?
3. Who are those that we are watching how they respond to God's Word? Are there individuals that we are looking up to to help model what it means to be the light?
4. What steps are we taking toward our growth in grace? Do we desire to have stronger faith, brighter hope and clearer knowledge?
5. Who is the "one person" in your life walking in darkness? What is one practical way you can shine the light of Christ to them this week?