

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 9: Mark 4:21-41

The lamp on a lampstand (vv. 21-25)

Luke 8:16-18

- The lamp “comes”, denoting that this is Jesus and His teaching
- The “mystery” of the gospel is being revealed
- Learning leads to increased understanding and growth
- Unbelief will remove any desire to know these truths

How would you characterize an acceptable “measure”?

The parable of the growing seed (vv. 26-29) – Only in Mark

- The “inner workings” of Kingdom growth are beyond our knowledge
- It grows even when we are not directly involved

How does this parable relate to the parable of the sower?

The parable of the mustard seed (vv. 30-32)

Matt. 13:31-32
Luke 13:18-19

- Proverbially, the mustard seed was the smallest seed in Israel
- This parable contrasts the humble beginning of the church with God’s plan for worldwide evangelism and growth

What would be a modern application of this parable?

The use of parables (vv. 33-34)

Matt. 13:34-35

- Parables should stimulate thinking and awaken spiritual perception
- Veiled truth allows Jesus to work with a larger degree of freedom
- Even the Twelve do not fully understand the truth behind them

What would have been the result if Jesus had taken a more direct approach?

Jesus controls the storm (vv. 35-41)

Matt. 8:23-27
Luke 8:22-25

- Miracle accounts continue through the end of chapter 5
- Only Mark includes the disciples’ sharp question to Jesus (v. 38)
- Some have compared Jesus’ command to the wind with His method of dealing with demons
- This miracle elevates Jesus in the minds of His disciples

What does Jesus mean when He says the disciples have no faith?