**Do You Have It?**

***21****And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand?****22****For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light.****23****If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”****24****And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.****25****For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.” (Mark 4:21-25, ESV)*

To receive Christ who is Light, we need to have ears and to hear. Greetings dear brothers and sisters as we continue to benefit from Jesus’ teachings for the sake of our spiritual growth. Jesus had just finished telling the parable of the sower and explaining it. Through it he had wanted to clarify the results of His own work, which was also God’s Kingdom’s work. In today’s Scripture passage, we see that Jesus is speaking about Himself and connecting His work to people hearing or receiving. For this reason, we’re going to talk today about hearing God’s voice as the most important individual task for each of us. Let’s move to our passage analysis:

For the Christ-follower, there must be a recognition of the Lord’s identity by hearing Him, so that they can grow and grow others around them. When we study the passage in the original Greek, we see that the translation “the lamp comes” (to be brought under a basket) is the correct translation.[[1]](#footnote-1) Not only that, but the Greek says, “The lamp”, in other words, it is a specific lamp that “comes”, says Jesus. However, in the natural world, lamps do not come and go, which means that Jesus, as the Light of the world, was talking about Himself. Taking into consideration Jesus’ context, if we understand what He has said in this way, then we can also deduce that He came to be put on a metaphorical lampstand. Jesus had come to light up the world. What was hidden is going to be revealed because Jesus is going to reveal Himself, and whatever Divine truth or power had not yet been revealed because it was hidden in Christ’s humanity[[2]](#footnote-2), all of that He was going to bring forth to the world. Therefore, if someone had an ear to hear Jesus, to receive and trust in Him, that He would reveal and present Himself as light to this world, then that person would be the one to recognize Jesus’ identity.

It was incredibly important that those around Jesus heard Him correctly. Those around the Lord needed to hear Jesus with a hungry heart and a great expectation. With whatever measure they chose to listen, they would receive more revelation and “hearing” proportionally. Whoever had the heart and ears to hear was going to comprehend Jesus and that was going to be a means for them to understand and to hear even more from Him. On the other hand, whoever did not want to accept that Jesus was the Light that was coming into the world would have even the little bit of grace that they had disappear on them, because they were rejecting the very source of their spiritual nourishment.

Jesus said, “The measure you use will be the measure you receive.” There was a time when Jews used to say something from which this quote may have been derived: “With the pot that you cook for others, you will be cooked.”

What Jesus said may seem a little strange to us today. Isn’t He merciful and loves His creation to the uttermost? How can He say that we will be measured out by the standard that we use for ourselves and others? When Jesus is revealing Himself, however, and people still do not want to understand Him for various reasons, then they become people who listen only a little, or deal with God in an unjust measure or manner. We need to think about ourselves here as well. Do we hear the Lord’s self-revelation as Light coming to us? Does the personal revelation of Jesus have a place in our spiritual lives? I ask because Jesus is that light that comes to illuminate ourselves, our families, and our homes. But where have you put that Light? Does it shine in your life, in your family life, standing on a “lampstand”, on your heart and mind? Or is it under a basket or a bowl, extinguished, collecting dust, as if you don’t recognize Jesus?

For a Christ-follower, it is important that he or she know Jesus’ identity as Light, for growing and helping others to grow.

May God make Jesus’ light shine within and through us to others, and may we become hearers and conveyors of the Light. May we have the hearing to hear Him more and grow and make others grow as well. May the Lord Bless you all. Amen.

1. It is translated that way in the Armenian, but not in any English translation I’ve encountered. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Jesus’ humanity was, in a sense, a shield for us helpless humans against the awesome power of God – so, Jesus revealed God to us bit by bit, so that we could handle it. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)