

Youth Sunday Devotional – 03/22/20

Luke 8:16-21(ESV)

16 “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. 17 For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. 18 Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

- Take a minute and write down what you think this passage is teaching before continuing with the study. Feel free to read earlier/later passages to help or talk to siblings, friends, and parents about what they think as well.



The passage we have before us today is one that many of you have heard before; it is a parable that I have heard countless times. I would encourage you to continue to engage with familiar passages of Scripture even if you feel they don't have new insights to offer. Paul says in Philippians “To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.” Repetition of familiar passages not only reminds us of the truth that we already know but also ensures that we have not forgotten or misunderstood that truth in the past. As this passage will teach, we should be careful not to think we know the truth and miss the gospel.

Jesus often talks about lamps in parables and stories to address his disciples and even to address sinners who have not yet accepted Him as the Messiah. Usually, when the Bible talks about something hidden that will be brought into the open, it is talking about secret sins of men and women, the sins that we are too afraid to confess to anyone. However, if you read the context of this passage you can see that Jesus is not talking about your sins, but rather about gospel truth. Just before this parable is the parable of the sower, where Christ teaches that some will hear the gospel and not understand, and though they see Christ they will not see the truth about Him. Not all that see will truly see, and not all that hear will understand. Jesus was teaching His disciples to listen closely to what He says and to take heed, carefully seeking out the meaning of His teachings. It is only when you are intently listening to Christ's teachings and seeking out wise council from those God has placed in your life that you will be able to hold out the light of salvation before the world. We are not the light in this parable, Christ, the incarnate word of God is the light that we are to hold to and display openly. Today, Christians share that light.

In America, we often have a “you do you, and I'll do me” mentality, which is wrapped up in Moral Relativism (remember Taste and See?) where everyone's truth is true to them and only them. However, if we embrace that mentality, if we keep the gospel truth to ourselves, we are placing the lamp under a jar. Ultimately the truth will be made manifest, made known, to all the earth at the second coming of Christ. As we study the scriptures more, even familiar passages, we will begin to understand the whole of the gospel more and will be able to share it with others like Christ shares it with us. Christ in this parable leaves us with a warning, however, those who do not have the gospel will have the little truth they think they have taken away from them. We ought to then be careful when examining the scripture and not take passages for granted but to study the words of Christ wholly and seek out guidance from our peers, teachers, and those older or wiser than us, so that we can be confident in what the scriptures teach.

Discussion Questions

1. Were you right about what the passage was teaching at the beginning? In what ways were your thoughts similar? In what ways did the lesson surprise you?
2. Do you ever read a passage from the Bible and quickly move on because you already know what it means? What are some useful ways to help dig deeper into the text to make sure we were right about what is being taught in the passage?
3. Is the idea of moral relativism something you face in your daily life? How does it impact your willingness or ability to effectively communicate the gospel to friends, family, coworkers, or classmates?
4. Are you tempted to behave differently than what scripture teaches because of how you think you may be perceived by others? (Friends, classmates, significant others)
5. How does the preaching at Uptown Church reflect the teaching of Jesus in this passage? For those of you going off to college soon, how can you use the parable to help you find a good church away from home?
6. How can you be interacting with those younger than you when it comes to the Gospel? How about life in general? In what ways can you serve the youth group in relation to this?

Lastly, reach out to your friends and your family and talk about this with them! Just because we are not meeting together in the church building does not mean that we can't talk with one another! An easy way to start applying this parable to our lives now is to join together in community and talk about what we are learning with each other.