

St. Columba Newsletter. 06/02/2021

Mark 4.21-25 A Lamp on a Stand.

²¹ Jesus said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? ²² For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear let them hear."

²⁴ "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. ²⁵ Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them."

Comment

I have been wondering what contemporary image we might use today for this parable. "Do you give a celebrity a microphone and wrap it in a blanket? Instead don't you put them on a podium so everyone can see and hear!" Jesus is in effect saying to his disciples; I am telling you these things in secret now; but the reason for announcing the kingdom, for bringing Gods light into the world, is so that everyone can see it. "For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought into the open." Jesus, according to Mark, keeps His true identity secret. He tells people not to broadcast what he is doing. This is so that he can carry out his ministry without being constantly challenged by the authorities and maybe, arrested. The message of the parable, in its own day, was that all will be revealed soon enough. This was, if you like, a promise. Alongside that promise comes a warning; make sure you are listening! You will need to know. "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

I have to say, in my younger days I looked at verse 25 superficially. As a young person with not very much I thought this was a about material things. On the face of it, that is what it seems to say. "Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them." It seems to say the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. In context, however, that is clearly not what Jesus is saying. Jesus is speaking spiritually not materially." If you have a little faith and you nurture it, it will grow; if you don't nurture it, it will die.

This parable is an encouragement to nurture the faith we have in us. It doesn't matter how small that faith is; rather, like a plant it needs rain and sunshine to help it grow. The faith we have is not a secret now. Faith is for sharing. If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.

You may enjoy listening to this hymn. You might like to join in and sing as it plays!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cd14v0e1RWU>

If you are struggling with lockdown, you may find the clip below helpful. How did Noah cope with lockdown? Are you simply waiting for the present situation to end or are you trusting in God. Are you waiting or are you trusting? Listen to Isaac Boruaye.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VaD_6AF_cA&feature=youtu.be