



**Prayer & Bible Study May 17, 2017**  
**Mark 4:21 – 32**

**Intro:**

**This section is about how to hear the word.** It is an extension of the good ground receiving the seed to bring forth a good harvest. Note how verse 29 keeps to the theme of harvest: "because the harvest is come."

This section of the gospel narrative by Mark is about a true response from hearts who truly hear the gospel message, with the hearing of faith.

In those hearts that bring forth 30, 60, or 100 fold, each believer will receive the word with good purpose and with definite application.

Application is the difference between seed falling upon good ground and upon bad.

This will help us to pray - for ourselves, for others and for the lost.

**1. THE LORD'S PURPOSE IS TO MANIFEST THE WORD AS LIGHT FOR THE WORLD V 21 - 22.**

**[1] Receive it as God's message to be shone abroad** - even a candlestick v21 not to be hidden. This is the purpose of God.

**[2] Receive it without shame.**

There is a powerful tendency to be ashamed of the light of the gospel. The fear of man, the timidity of our hearts work to put out the light.

The mark of a Christian is his desire to spread the light of the gospel.

**Every born again Christian is an automatic missionary.** A new spirit of missions is born in the heart of all born again believers in Christ.

The Spirit of God coming into our souls means we are energized with a gospel vision to have some part in spreading the light of Christ to perishing souls.

All the other types of ground allowed the seed to be hidden - the devil stealing it, the thorns choking it, the sun scorching it with persecutions causing offence.

It is the good ground that sends the shoots of life high and strong to ripen toward the harvest day.

**We must pray for this.**

**2. HOW TO RECEIVE THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD. V24**

**"Take heed what ye hear."** It is all about the hearing or receiving of the word. it seems that we are so bad at it.

**v24 With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you.** This I paraphrase as, "To what degree you apply Gods word it shall be applied to you."

It is application that buries the seed deep in the heart. It is application that overcomes the devil's work to steal the word, and application overcomes the things that choke the seed, or cause offence.

**Three areas of application may be suggested here:**

**[1] Meditation upon the word** - the lost art of gospel ministry.

- Meditate to understand it.
- Meditate to remember it. Sermons that are heard once are easily forgotten.  
Meditation makes them stick. Preachers are to preach sticky sermons - good application. Hearers are to make the sermon stick with them.

Q & A. What has this to do with me? It brings the word from the page on the Bible to the person in the pew, to the man in the street.

- Meditate to make it your own conviction - you need to own the truth that is taught. Let the word convince you and change you to fall into line with God's truth.

**[2] Submission to the word.** -- to make use of it. v24

Apply, or "mete" = to what degree you apply the word. Does the word take root in your life? It must work conviction in the heart so to make you a new person.

**[3] Expectation of profit from the word.** v24c "shall more be given" &v25 "He that hath, to him shall be given."

Because he makes good use of the light of God's word, His souls prospers. He will be bringing forth fruit. With God's blessing, he will advance in the Christian life. **J C Ryle said, "The more we do for our souls, the more we shall find God does for them."**

The opposite is true for the person who will not apply the truth - "from him shall be taken away."

Note the illustrations of this prosperity of soul to those who apply the word to their lives in v 26-32. The progress may be slow. It may be inconspicuous, and the changes may not be dramatic, but the end result is dramatic, as the manner of mustard seed growing from the tiniest of seeds to the largest of shrubs.

To put this truth to work in our own lives:

- We will need to exercise patience in our Christian lives to enjoy the benefits and blessings of faithful obedience to God's word.
- We will need to walk by faith, not by sight.
- We will need to be content with God's timing in our lives. Expect that Gospel ministry will be productive over time - v 32 34. This is our antidote to empty seats and falling attendance. This must bolster our confidence when things happen ever so slowly in God's work.