

## Session 11

### The Lamp and the Measure



### Reading: Mark 4:21-25

**21** He 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.”

#### Introduction:

This is a tricky passage to understand. But it also has some great encouragement; with the possibility of receiving a large ‘measure’ from God.

- List some of things of God that feel firm, solid, and reliable for you; and some of the things which seem like a mystery or hard to accept
- How do you feel about the things you have listed?

#### WORD:

READ Mark 4:1-34 (reading the whole context of the passage can help!)

- What is your first reaction to what you read?
- How easy or difficult do you find these verses?
- What encourages and challenges you?

READ v21-25.

Which of the the more common interpretations (listed below) do you find most convincing of these verses, and why?:

- They could be about the way we behave (but this view is not often supported by commentators)
- They could be a follow-up to the parable of the sower (as they continue straight on fro this parable)
- They could refer the meaning of parables in general (as an answer to the difficulty in v10-12)
- They could refer to the revelation of the Kingdom of God (as this seems to be the main focus of the whole chapter)

There is a very good argument that the lamp is about God’s truth and the measure is the degree to which we listen/hear his truth.

- How would you describe the ‘measure’ that you use to hear God’s truth?
- What things do you do practically to hear God?
- What challenges and encouragements do you take from v24-25?

**PRAYER:** What prayer response does today’s reading and discussion invite?

**ACTION:** What practical action does today’s reading and discussion encourage?