

Pay attention to what you hear:

1. What You Need to Pay Attention to (Parable of the Lamp)

The Parable of the Lamp:

Jesus is THE lamp that shines and reveals.
He will not and cannot remain hidden but will be made known to all.

Verses 21–23: And he said to them, “**Is a (THE) lamp brought in** to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? **For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light.** If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Dallas Willard: “We live at the mercy of our ideas. This is never more true than with our ideas about God. Meaning well is not enough. Those who operate on the wrong information are likely never to know the reality of God’s presence in the decisions which shape their lives and will miss the constant divine companionship for which their souls were made.”

Takeaways/Application:

1. If Jesus is the lamp that will be made known to all, believe that He can be made known to you today.

To those exploring Christianity:

God gave us the Bible to reveal himself, not hide himself!

Instead of feeling intimidated or overwhelmed by the Scriptures, instead of thinking that only a select few can really grasp and understand, you can study the Scriptures where the message of salvation is plain and clear to everyone.

The Perspicuity of Scripture: The Bible's teaching on salvation can be understood by anyone and everyone.

Psalm 119:130: The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

To those who are Christians: Grow in your worship and understanding of Jesus who has already been made known to you!

"Dear Jesus...May the cooling of our love for you bother us more than the fragile economy, political insanity in the world, and every relational challenge we face in life. Do not let us get used to the status quo, ho-hum...tame love for you, Jesus. Pour the rocket fuel of your Spirit, beauty, and grace upon us."
(Scotty Smith)

Takeaways/Application:

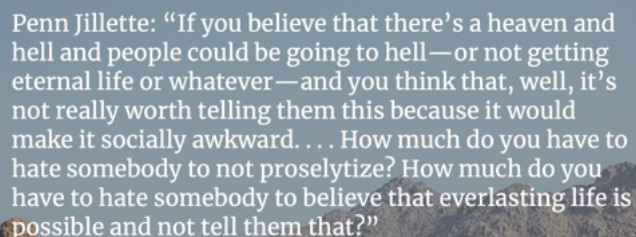
2. If Jesus is the lamp that shines and will be made known to all, we are to broadcast him!

Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."


Charles Spurgeon: "The Bible is not the light of the world, it is the light of the Church. But the world does not read the Bible, the world reads Christians! You are the light of the world."

Christian friends, which category do you find yourself identifying with?

- 1) Obnoxious
- 2) Anxious
- 3) Callous



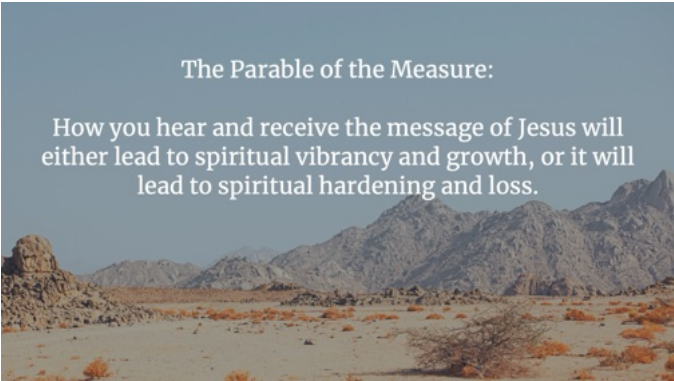
Penn Jillette: “If you believe that there’s a heaven and hell and people could be going to hell—or not getting eternal life or whatever—and you think that, well, it’s not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward. . . . How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?”



Pay attention to what you hear:

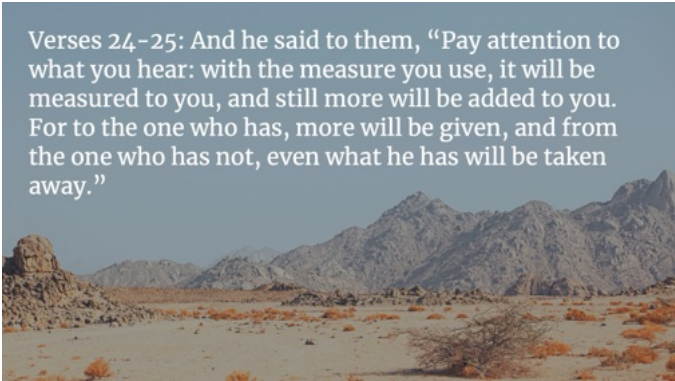
1. What You Need to Pay Attention to (Parable of the Lamp)

2. Why You Need to Pay Attention (Parable of the Measure)



The Parable of the Measure:

How you hear and receive the message of Jesus will either lead to spiritual vibrancy and growth, or it will lead to spiritual hardening and loss.



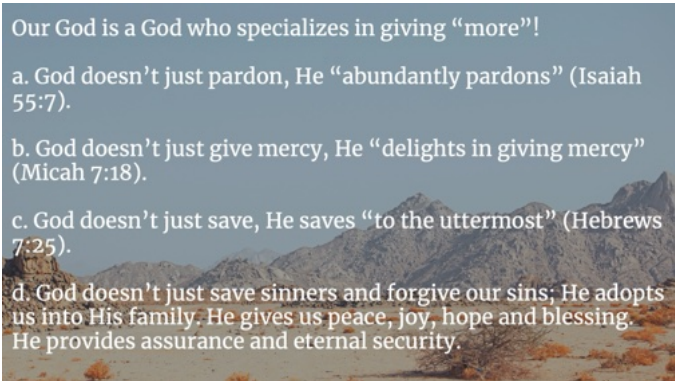
Verses 24-25: And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”



Spiritual Vibrancy and Growth: “For to the one who has, more will be given”:

a. A receptive heart that receives in faith will yield growing faith and fruitfulness.

b. This is connected to the previous parable of the sower (good soil). A seed that is able to transform a barren ground into a garden.



Our God is a God who specializes in giving “more”!

a. God doesn’t just pardon, He “abundantly pardons” (Isaiah 55:7).

b. God doesn’t just give mercy, He “delights in giving mercy” (Micah 7:18).

c. God doesn’t just save, He saves “to the uttermost” (Hebrews 7:25).

d. God doesn’t just save sinners and forgive our sins; He adopts us into His family. He gives us peace, joy, hope and blessing. He provides assurance and eternal security.

Ephesians 3:20-21: Now to him who is able to do **far more abundantly** than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Spiritual hardening and loss: “From the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away”:

a. Jesus is not being harsh but lovingly urgent. This is a warning and an invitation.

b. The original context

c. Cautionary words for us today, to not presume or take lightly to what we hear from Jesus

Charles Spurgeon: “God’s Word is like sunlight—it either melts the wax or hardens the clay.”