

THE LAMP AND THE BUSHEL

(Mt 5:14-16; Mk 4:21-23; Lk 8:16-18)

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“And He said unto them, ‘Is the lamp brought out to be put under the bushel, or under the bed, and not to be put on the stand? For there is nothing hid, save that it should be manifested; neither was anything made secret, but that it should come to light. If any man hath ears to hear, let him hear.’ And He said unto them, ‘Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete it shall be measured unto you; and more shall be given unto you. For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which (he thinketh) he hath.’”

In Psalm 119:105 we read: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path,” and in Proverbs 6:23 it says: “For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light...”, so it should be apparent that the word ‘lamp’ refers to the Scriptures in the language of parables. Consequently this parable centers around the word: ‘word’.

If we restate the first sentence: “**Is the word brought out to be put under the bed?**” then it becomes apparent what the rest of the parable is about. If the lamp is the word, and the lamp is meant to be put on a lampstand, then the word is meant to be held up for all to see as well. Jesus then goes on to say that: “**...there is nothing hid, save that it should be manifested; neither was anything made secret, but that it should come to light.**” So if He is referring to the ‘word’, then what ‘word’ is hidden? What ‘word’ has been made secret? The very word ‘apocrypha’ comes from a Greek word meaning ‘hidden’, or ‘secret’. In other words, the apocryphal books should be brought to light. In fact, the literal meaning lets us know that they were intended to be

hidden and made secret in order that in due course, they should be revealed.

Perhaps even more intriguing is the next verse: “**Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete it shall be measured unto you; and more (of the word!) shall be given unto you.**” In other words, with whatever measure you make when you hear the word, there will be a corresponding amount measured back to you. The more you are willing to hear of God's word, the greater will be your reward from Him. One should not be afraid to read more of God's Scriptures, but rather, one should realize that those who cling to their limited understanding of the word will end up being wrong, as the next verse makes clear.

Jesus goes on to say: “**For he that hath, (eyes to see, and ears to hear the mystery of this parable) to him shall be given (more answers to the mysteries of God); and he that Hath not (this understanding), from him shall be taken away even that which he thinketh he hath.**” What he thinks he has is a correct estimation of what constitutes Scripture, and what that Scripture means. Any coherent system that is both accurate and consistent will certainly pose a threat to those in authority over the Churches. Once you grasp this concept, you will find that God will reveal more to you about it, but only if you are sincere, after all, what God is really testing about you is your sincerity. The knowledge of men is foolishness to God, therefore it will be discarded. The traditions of men have heretofore limited your knowledge about these mysteries, but He is even now restoring them, and you can be a part of it.