

OCC Connections Bible Study (Group or Personal)

The Lamp Under a Basket: *Matthew 5:14-16; Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18*

Big Idea:

- Jesus names His disciples “*the light of the world.*” Light is meant to be seen and not hidden. Thus, when we receive salvation (the light of Christ that dwells within us), our growth and visible good works glorify the Father.
- In Mark/Luke, Jesus adds a stewardship principle: the way we listen and respond (share and act) becomes the “*measure*” we receive back. Just as we receive talents/minas (time, talent, treasure, testimony, and more), we are to use what we are given for his glory!

1) Read: Matthew 5:14-16; Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18 aloud. If possible, also read *Matthew 5:1-16; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15* (for context). **Pray** for the light of Christ, understanding, and the courage to respond.

2) Observe the Text (choose 2-3)

- Which images/roles stand out (lamp, basket/bushel, bed, stand, city on a hill, measure)? What might each represent?
- What is the stated purpose of light (*Matthew 5:16*)? How do “good works” relate to God’s glory?

- In Mark/Luke, what does Jesus mean by “the measure you use” and “how you listen”? What promise/warning is attached to it?
- How do these teachings connect to the Beatitudes (*Matthew 5*) and the Sower (*Mark 4/Luke 8*)?

3) See the Connections

- **Context:** In Matthew, the call to shine follows salt/Beatitudes; in Mark/Luke, the lamp follows the Sower: revelation is meant to be manifested, and careful hearing multiplies understanding.
- **Word Work:** (With Strongs concordance)
 - **lýchnos (G3088)** — *lamp*; a small oil lamp used indoors. (typically a clay lamp). From previous parables, this represents churches or people as vessels that contain the Holy Spirit (oil).
 - **módios (G3426)** — *bushel*; a basket that holds about 8-9 liters. Per the parable, this represents things that can dim or "snuff" the light. May we remove our fears, turn from sin, & let the light of Christ shine bright!
 - **métron (G3358)** — *measure/standard*; the portion or standard you apply. In Mark 4:24 it pictures the attentiveness you bring to Jesus' words.
- **Cross References:**
 - **Isaiah 60:1-3:** “Arise, shine...” (nations come to your light).
 - **Philippians 2:14-16:** “shine as lights in the world.”

- **Ephesians 5:8-14** formerly darkness, now light; “Awake, O sleeper.”
- **1 Peter 2:9**: called out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- **John 8:12**: Jesus, the light of the world.
- **Galatians 6:7-9**: sowing & reaping (principle behind “measure”).
- **2 Corinthians 4:6**: “Let light shine out of darkness.”
- **Revelation 1:12-13, 20; 2:1-5**: Lampstand = Church

4) Interpret (what it means)

- **In Christ, You Are Light:** We receive our identity in Christ. Our identity is not self-made. We go from darkness to light. (Matthew 5:14; John 8:12; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:9).
- **Lamps Are Meant to Shine:** In having the light, love and truth of Christ, we are not to hide it. For hiding the lamp goes against God's design. We are meant to shine for others to see, and to glorify the Father. Let your light be visible and shine! (Matthew 5:15-16).
- **Listening & Sharing Bring Blessing:** “With the measure you use...”: Pay attention. Listen. Learn and grow in your faith. As this happens, share with others like a bright flame. For in sharing, this brings forth more light. (Mark 4:24-25; Luke 8:18; Galatians 6:7; Luke 6:38).

5) Apply (how we live)

- **Respond & Believe:** Christ invites you into the light of his love, grace and truth. This light is his salvation. Come to Christ, the light of the World. Respond by believing in His death, burial and resurrection (John 10:7; Matthew 7:13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- **Remove the baskets:** The “*basket*” here represents fear, sin, compromise, etc. Uncover the lamp (Ephesians 5:11-14; 2 Timothy 1:7; Matthew 10:32-33), so that you may repent (*change your mind*) to grow closer to God.
- **Shine & Share:** Put your lamp on a stand through acts of mercy, justice, and generosity (be Christ-like in your words and deeds). Measure well by listening carefully and sharing (*responding to*) what you receive (Philippians 2:14-16; Mark 4:24; 2 Timothy 2:2).

6) Pray the Text

- **Praise:** For our identity in Christ. Christ is the light in our darkness (2 Corinthians 4:6).
- **Confession:** May we not hide our lamps and not be careless in our hearing.

- **Dependence:** Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us hear/obey and shine courageously. Let us rely on Him!
- **Mission:** May we use our lamps to guide others to Christ.

7) Life Stage Helps

- **Parents/Kids:** Memorize Matthew 5:16. Brainstorm ways to shine the light, love, and truth of Christ at school/neighborhood.
- **Couples/Roommates:** Identify one “*basket*” that is dimming the home, friendship, or relationship. Choose a shared practice that you can shine (hospitality/prayer/serving) to others.
- **Students/Young Adults:** Think of all the “*voices*” that you hear today (podcast, news, social media, influencers) and map out who you give the most attention to. Which ones point towards you, Jesus, and which ones do not?
- **New to Faith:** Reread the passages; ask a mature believer how to let your light shine; share one insight this week. You will be surprised at what wisdom or experience you can learn from another brother or sister in Christ.
- **Singles/Widows/Seniors:** Recall God’s past faithfulness; call or write someone younger to encourage them to shine.

Additional Notes or Questions: