

The Lamp Under a Basket

August 31, 2025 | *Matthew 5:14-16; Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18*



Observation: What is happening here?

Context: Three occurrences (in the gospels), two contexts:

- In **Matthew 5**, this parable occurs after he calls his disciples the "*salt of the earth*". Jesus then declares them the "*light of the world*"
- In **Mark 4** and **Luke 8**, the parable follows the teaching of the **Sower**. Divine revelation is meant to be manifested. So, we must be careful how we listen, grow, and apply. The *measure* we bring forth to Christ becomes what we receive. In other words, consider how you steward what God gives to you.

Parabolic Outline (Matthew 5:14-16; Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18):

- **Lamp & Stand:** No one lights a lamp to hide it under a basket or a bed. The lamp is to be set on a **stand** to brighten the house. Consider Revelation 1:12-13, 20; 2:1-5 (lampstands = churches).
- **City on a Hill (Matthew):** A city set on a hill **cannot be hidden**
- **Purpose of the Parable:** The Light shines through **good works**, as this will bring **glory to the Father**.
- **Nothing Hidden:** "*Nothing is hidden except to be made manifest.*" Truth is given by God to be shared. | As we learn, grow, and discover, share.

Ontario Community Church: Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.
John 6:47 (ESV) "*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life*"

Interpretation: What can we learn?

In Christ, You Are Light

- In Christ, we are saved, given a new identity, and we are a new creation. We receive these things; It is not by being self-made or a works-based salvation.
- **Scripture:** *Matthew 5:14; John 8:12; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:9.*

Lamps Are Meant to Shine:

- Hiding the light contradicts its purpose of light. Light is to be shown; to be visible for others to come to the light and for the Father's glory.
- **Scripture:** *Matthew 5:15-16; Luke 11:33; 1 John 1:5-7; Titus 2:7-8.*

Listening & Sharing Bring Blessing:

- “With the measure you use...”: Be attentive in hearing (learning and growing in faith) and generous in sharing. In sharing, we help build the kingdom.
- **Scripture:** *Mark 4:24-25; Luke 8:18; Galatians 6:7; Luke 6:38; James 1:22-25.*

Application: How should we live?

Let the light shine in your heart:

- Believe in Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Christ is the **light** that shines in our hearts. *Receive the light* (much like how we *receive* the **seed**)
- **Scripture:** *1 Corinthians 15:1-4; John 10:7; John 1:12-13; Matthew 7:13-14.*

Remove the cover of the light:

- Is there a basket that is covering the light?
- Remove the basket: (fear, sin, compromise, etc.) and uncover the lamp.
- **Scripture:** *John 10:3-5, 27; Psalm 119:105; Hebrews 5:14.*

Set the Lamp on a Stand to shine!

- Serve, speak, and practice your faith so others may come to Christ, grow in him, and glorify the Father; measure well by listening and sharing with others.
- **Scripture:** *Matthew 5:16; Isaiah 58:6-10; Mark 4:24; Philippians 2:14-16; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 2:12.*