



“Are You Listening?”

Luke 8:16-21

August 28, 2022

August Meeting Schedule

- Aug. 28 – Class
- Sept. 4 – No class – Labor Day
- Sept. 11 – EPCC not available
- Sept. 18 – Class
- Sept. 25 - Class

Luke 8:16-21

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17 "For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

18 "So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."

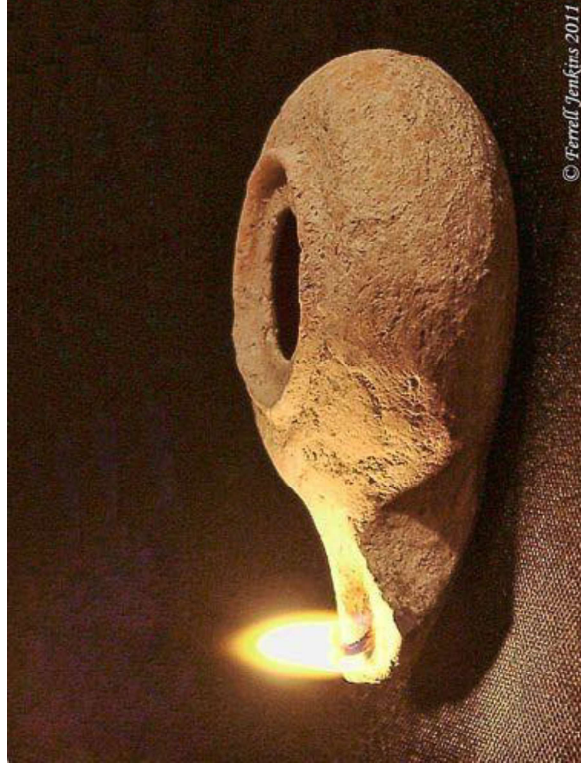
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- In that culture, in that time, this illustration makes perfect sense.
- The only light you had was from the fire or from candles or from some sort of a lamp.



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16 "Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light."

- You don't light a lamp to put it right out. You light a lamp to see, to provide light, to help others to see.
- God didn't light up your lamp so that it would be hidden.
- In fact, you are to put it in a prominent spot so others can see.
- God's Word (seed) is planted in good soil. It grows and transforms our lives. As a result we are to be as lights, living testimonies to those in darkness.
- The "fruit" of verse 15 is the "light" of verse 16. And this light is meant to help people see their way to "come into" the kingdom of God.

Prov 4:19

19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble.

Rom 1:21

21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

The solution must come from a source outside of this world -

1 John 1:5

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Acts 26:18

18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

Phi 2:15

15 prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

• All creation is dominated by spiritual darkness.

1. Satan

1 John 5:19

19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

2. Demons

Eph 6:12-13

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

3. Fallen man

Eph 4:17-20

17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles (pagans) also walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

• So, our world is in darkness. How are people going to find the answers to life's basic questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going?

• Will the answers come from our educational systems, our universities? Will the answers come from the 10 o'clock news? Will the answers come from our politicians? Will it come from dead religious organizations?

• We have in the world a lot of information, but we have no answers.

• In a room of darkness, if you have a light, you are the only hope for those in darkness.

• Darkness does not produce light.

• Those who have responded to the Word need to shine with the truth and help people who are in darkness.

• "Light is different from darkness; if it's not different, it's not light at all. If you consider yourself a Christian but you're exactly like everybody in the world around you and you're not different in any way, then you're not a Christian at all."



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Num 32:23

3 "But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.

Gal 6:7

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Hos 8:7

7 For they sow the wind

And they reap the whirlwind.

John 3:19-21

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

18 "So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."

"So take care how you listen" – Why? 4 reasons -

1. Your salvation depends on it. (12)

12 "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.

2. Your fruitfulness depends on it. (15)

15 "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

3. The spread of the light of the gospel depends on it. (16,17)

4. Ultimately the glory of God depends on it.(Matt. 5:16)

Matt 5:16

16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

17 "For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

• Light serves two functions: 1. it illumines, 2. but it also exposes.

"evident" φανερος – to make manifest, visible, conspicuous, what is visible or open to sight – apparent obvious, plain, clear, easily seen.

• Your life, when it shines, will expose the darkness in others. It will just naturally do that.

Eph 5:11-13

11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even **expose** them;

12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light,

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Are you really listening?

Questions:

When you hear the Word -

1. Are you aware that this is God's time, not yours?

2. Are you thinking about what God is saying?

- are you focused?

- or are you distracted?

3. Are you understanding what God is saying?

4. Are you following up with meditation?

5. Do you respond to what God is saying?

Heb 5:11

11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

John 8:43,47

43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.

47 "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

John 10:27

27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

18 "So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."

- If you listen carefully and act on what you hear, God will reveal Himself even more to you in His Word."
- However, if anyone does not listen to the Word (meaning they are one of the soils 1-3), even what he has will disappear. The birds will haul it away.
- It is dangerous to ignore the Word, to not apply the Word, or to treat the Word with a lukewarm heart.
- You are either going forward in your Christian life or you are going backwards.
- Practical examples. Are you listening?

Ice cream

Room clean-up

Providence

Anger

"Whether you're listening to a sermon or reading God's Word, take care how you listen! The Bible is God's revealed truth. If you listen with a view to obedience, you will be blessed. There are riches there for you—if you will listen carefully as God speaks."

-Steven Cole

"Heedful Hearing" - sermon

Charles Spurgeon suggested some ways to hear the word of God:

- Hear attentively, retentively.
- Hear believingly, obediently.
- Hear candidly, honestly.
- Hear devoutly, sincerely.
- Hear earnestly, spiritually.
- Hear feelingly, sensitively.
- Hear gratefully, prayerfully.

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- **Note:** No Joseph.
- **"brothers"** – so much for the perpetual virginity of Mary. Not cousins or from previous marriage.

Mark 6:3

3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?"

- Crowds were just too big.

Mark 3:20-21

20 And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal.

21 When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses."

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- Word gets back to Jesus about His family.
- So what will Jesus say or do?
- What would be expected?
- Jesus says something unusual here . . .

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21 But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

- Jesus is not being rude or insensitive here.
- He is not putting down His family, but rather raising other believers up to the level of His family.
- You have no doubt experienced this when you meet someone and find out they are a believer or born-again. You sense that wonderful spiritual kinship with them.
- There is a deeper kinship than flesh & blood, a spiritual kinship which is characterized by obedience.

• Jesus says here that what defines spiritual kinship is:

1. Those who hear the Word.
2. Those who do the Word.

James 1:22-24

- 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;
- 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

John 14:15

15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

1 John 2:4

4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

Application

1. How bright is your light shining?
2. Do you have more in common with your spiritual relationships than w/your earthly relationships?
3. Hearers that do not "do", really have "not heard."
4. Therefore hearing is worthless if it does not result in doing. Its not how many sermons you have heard, how many notebooks you have filled, or how many times you have read through the Bible, but how much of it you obey.
5. Bottom line: God has spoken, are you listening and are you doing?