

Week 4

Seeing the light

Luke 8:16-18 (NIV2011)

¹⁶“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.

¹⁷ For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.

¹⁸ Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.”

What's the context here?

Last weeks passage about the sower!! Many times the parables are linked and continue a theme. Interestingly, it is as if Jesus has a point in each that we need to take note of and they fit together. Remember last weeks was about us reproducing our faith. Reproducing is the thought.

This parable continues that.

It's a camping story. Put the light where it is useful to do what needs to be done in the tent.

Ok its one of those parables we totally understand BUT

How does it translate into life right now?

How do we shine? How do we shine Jesus? What's it mean to shine Jesus?

Shining what we believe is really a putting it out there concept. Shining Jesus is putting Him out there for people to see. Showing that Jesus works in our lives. I think that is what it is about. Witnessing over the years has been given a hard wrap. Our church communities think witnessing is programs, structures and organised evangelism.

Witnessing is just what the word says: A witness to something.

Look at the word meaning.

Witness: 1 : attestation of a fact or event : testimony.

2 : one that gives evidence specifically : one who testifies in a cause or before a judicial tribunal.

3 : one asked to be present at a transaction so as to be able to **testify** to its having taken place.

4 : one who has personal knowledge of something.

So witnessing is really a showing of what you know about Jesus. Notice no 3- testifying. Yep, witnessing and testifying is saying what Jesus has done.

That's not a program – it's a lifestyle.

But along with that lifestyle is the willingness to articulate what you know.

But Notice the application (v17)

¹⁷ For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.

You can't hide things. IS it just saying you can't hide things

OR

Is it saying you can't hide Jesus?

Probably both

How does this fit into life?

Can we come up with a simple parabolic story or statement that explains this from our lives or from our understanding.

Yep, if we “witness” Jesus doing something we are to testify to it. If Jesus does something in your life – you talk about it.

MM, simple, practical but that whole concept creates some nervousness doesn't it.

At this point in our Christian lives, we need to be testifying that Jesus is with us. Through virus, financial difficulties, feeling alone and isolated, hey the list goes on.

OK, we've had some parable, application now a bit of summing up.

The next verse is really scary.

¹⁸ Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.”

Basically, if you can understand this – you have a responsibility to do something with it. It is like the “he who has ears let him hear” comment last week but takes it one step further.

If you know something, you are responsible to use it. – if not you lose it.

Wo. Big call.

The hard thing for us is how do we apply this?

How do we take responsibility of our understanding of the Jesus message and “shining it” to others?

Let’s get practical rather than theoretical How do we shine?

How do we show our Christianity? The Israel Folau style, the Scott Morrison style, etc.

What are the things that make us noticeably Christian?

(Be careful not to have cultural points here – only biblical examples)