

# Mark 4:21-25

## 3 Essentials Of Jesus & His Kingdom Bringing Abundant Life



# Background/Context

- Author: follower of Jesus, John Mark (associate of Paul and Peter)
- Written: (64-65 AD)
- Audience: Roman/Gentile
- Setting: City of Capernaum (NW corner of Sea of Galilee)
- Transition: This chapter Jesus begins teaching by using parables (earthly stories with heavenly meanings)
- Parables; more easily remembered, reveal truth to those who seek it, conceal revelation from those who rebel against Jesus, use everyday objects people can visualize

# Jesus & His Kingdom Are The Source Of Abundant Life

- (v.21) Jesus uses parable of a “lamp” (clay bowl filled with olive oil and wick)
- The “lamp” here refers to Jesus and His Kingdom; lit. “the” lamp; this likened to Jesus’ identity
- Jesus’ kingdom will not always be small, or seem to be hidden; one day His majestic identity will be fully revealed and all will see His light and glory
- Just like a candle dispels darkness, so too Jesus overcomes sin and evil
- Abundant life is found in the light of relationship with Jesus

- John 8:12, “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world.’ ‘He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”
- John 11:25-26a, “Jesus said to her (Martha), ‘I am the resurrection and the life.’ ‘He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.’ ‘And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.’”



# Jesus & His Kingdom Contain The Secret Of Abundant Life

- (v.22) Jesus goes on to add; His kingdom may seem trivial and unimportant, but one day its full glory will be revealed
- Great temptation to overlook, minimize importance of relationship with Jesus, but one day Jesus full identity will be shown to all of Creation
- When Jesus returns, He will come as the King of all kings and set up His kingdom on earth; He will be the Supreme Authority
- Abundant life comes from recognizing this now and being ready for that return

- Phils. 2:10-11, “...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- Rev. 1:7, “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”

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# Jesus & His Kingdom Impact The Shape Of Abundant Life

- (vv.23-25) Jesus again highlights extreme priority of hearing and applying God's Word
- "ears to hear" – "Behold, listen, pay attention, use ears!"
- Caution: must be careful who and what we listen to; words are powerful (our enemy Satan is a master liar)
- Very important what we do with God's Word: those who embrace it, receive more abundant revelation, those who reject it, miss out on abundant benefits
- If measure we use to hear God's Word is good, open, and honest, more will be given: if measure we use to hear is rebellious, small, and condemning, we won't receive back fullness of revelation



- Ps. 16:11, “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
- Ps. 119:165, “Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.”

