The Dimming of the Light Mark Lesson 7

**Lesson 7 – The Dimming of the Light**

**Mark 4:1-25, 33-34**

**Day 1 – Review**

1. What challenged or encouraged you from the lecture, and how did it help you
in your Christian walk?

2. What in the notes helped you to understand God’s Word, and how did you
apply it?

***Please note*** *that Lesson 7 will cover essentially the same verses as Lesson 8 (our lessons follow the commentary verses).  This week we will focus primarily on the first parable and the different kind of "hearers" of God's Word.  We are making this a priority, because Jesus says it is paramount. Therefore, this week is unique with more outside references.  Next week, we'll be back to staying primarily in the Mark passage as we focus on each of the parables.*

**Day 2 – Read Mark 4:1-12**

*Please pray before beginning your study. A possible verse to pray this week is Proverbs 2:2. Lord, I pray you turn my ear to wisdom and apply my heart to understanding your Holy Word.*

3. To begin to understand this passage refer back to the following verses:

a. In Mark 3:10, what did we learn this crowd was seeking?

b. In Mark 1:14-15, 38, why did Jesus say he came?

4. As Jesus was teaching the crowd, what words did he use to show he wanted them to pay careful attention to his message? (Mark 4:3 & 9)

5. Read Mark 4:9-12, along with Isaiah 44:18. Describe the difference between the disciples’ response to the parable and the crowd’s response.

Mark 4:10-12-

Isaiah 44:18-

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6. ***Thought Question:***  Does God harden people’s hearts towards His message or does He allow them to choose where their hearts turn? See the following verses to help you with your answer:

a. Romans 1:19-25–

b. Matthew 13:15 –

7. ***Personal Question:***  Jesus wanted people to listen and meditate on His words with all of their hearts and souls. Read Proverbs 2:1-6 and list ways you should approach God’s Word.

*Apply this day:**Search for God’s truth in your Bible. Ask God to give you ears to hear His voice above all other voices. Pray for a heart to listen to what He wants to tell you today.*

**Day 3 – Read Mark 4:1-20; 33&34**

*Please pray before beginning your lesson today.*

8. Reread Mark 4:11 & 34 carefully. The disciples were following Jesus, listening to Him, and asking Him questions. What does Jesus say has been given to them?

9. According to John 10:27, who listens to and follows Jesus?

10. ***Thought Question:*** There are many verses in scripture that lead us into a deeper understanding about the Kingdom of God. Read the following verses and answer the questions to help you in your understanding.

1. Mark 1:15 – Jesus tells us where the Kingdom of God is – Where is it?
2. Matthew 6:10- Tells us the Kingdom of God is available to us in two places – Where?

c. Romans 14:17 – Tells us the Kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking – What is it about?

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d. Romans 3:22 This Righteousness from God comes through Whom and is available to who?

e. John 3:3 How does Jesus declare we must enter the Kingdom of God?

11. In the following verses, what are we clearly told to seek?

Matthew 6:33 –

Psalm 27: 4 –

*Apply this day: Ask God for a heart to seek His Kingdom and His Righteousness above all else.*

**Day 4 – Read Mark 4:10-20**

*Please pray before beginning your lesson today.*

 *The definition of a parable according to Merriam-Webster: “A short story that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson.” It was Jesus’ intent to engage people’s minds and hearts to seek out His truths. (Proverbs 25:2)*

12. Reread carefully Mark 4:11-12. Who does Jesus say he speaks to in parables?

13. From the following verses, what do you learn about those who are outside the Kingdom of God?

A. Revelation 22: 15 – What do they love?

B. Galatians 5:19-21 – What are the obvious acts of the sinful nature?

C. 1 Corinthians 6: 9-11, Will those who seek wickedness inherit the Kingdom?

**14. *Thought Question***: Look again closely at 1 Corinthians 6:11. The verse says, “that is what some of you were.” How does God tell us that we can be washed
and justified?

15. What does Romans 3:22-24 reveal to us about how we can be made right
with God?

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16. According to Romans 1:16 and Acts 3:19, what is available to all?

**17. *Personal Question:*** According to 2 Timothy 2:22-26, what we are to pursue? Looking especially at v.25, what can we pray that God would grant to those who oppose Jesus’ teaching? How can you apply these truths to your life?

*Apply this day: Thank you, Heavenly Father, for providing Jesus to remove all of our sins. Please create in me a pure heart to seek You and Your righteousness through your Holy Word.*

**Day 5 – Read Mark 4:21-25**

*Please pray before beginning your lesson today.*

18. The lamp in this passage symbolizes three things. Using the following verses, what are they?

Psalm 119:105, 130-

John 8:12-

Matthew 5:14-16-

19.Looking back at Matthew 5:14-16: when we have God’s light in us, what is our responsibility to do with it?

20. According to John 3:19-21 who comes into the light?

21. We who have God’s light in us should be overflowing with gratitude and joy that Christ Jesus has set us free from sin and guilt. How do the following verses help you when it comes to sharing this wonderful good news of the gospel with others?

1 Peter 3:15 -

 Psalm 19:14 -

James 1:19-22 –

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**22. *Personal Question:*** According to Mark 4:24-25 we are to consider carefully what we hear and how we use it. What do you learn from I Timothy 4:15-16 about understanding scripture, acting upon it, and giving it out?

*Apply this day****:*** *Be transparent with the Lord and confess the hard places in your heart concerning His Word. Ask Him to help you seek His truths in scripture and give them out with gentleness and respect.*

**Day 6 – Reread Mark 4:23-24 (SOAP)**

*Please pray before beginning your lesson today.*

**Scripture** – *Write the verses.*

**Observation** – *Record something you learned from this verse*. *Possible questions to ask for observation: What principle do I learn? What warning should I heed? What commandment should I obey? What aspect of God’s character do I see?*

**Application** – *How can I apply this verse to my life?*

**Prayer** – *Pray to God, praise Him, and ask Him for what you need in response to what you learned. Write down your prayer.*