

MARK 4:21-41

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. What does Jesus ask about a lamp? What is the purpose of a lamp? How does Jesus expand on the illustration of a lamp (v. 22)?
2. What are we told in verses 23-25? Look at the words "hear" and "listen to". Observe the usage of these terms throughout the chapter (vs. 3, 9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 33).
3. What does Jesus compare the Kingdom of God to in verses 26-32?
4. What are we told about Jesus' usage of parables in verses 33 & 34?
5. Look at the whole chapter and see if you can determine when Jesus is speaking to the multitudes (vs. 1, 35-36) & when he was speaking privately to his disciples (vs. 10, 33-34).
6. How are the wind/storm (v.37), the calm (v.39) & the fear of the disciples (v.41) described?
7. What question do the disciples ask Jesus as they wake him, and what questions does Jesus ask the disciples after he calms the sea?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. What is Jesus point in bringing up the lamp illustration here? What things are hidden that need to be revealed? What secret things need bringing to light? Compare to verses 11-12.
2. How do verses 24 and 25 fit with the preceding verses?
3. What does the parable of the man who casts his seed upon the soil teach us about the kingdom of God (vs. 26-29)?
4. What does the mustard seed parable teach us about the kingdom of God (vs. 30-32)?
5. Why does Jesus hide the message from people and hinder others from telling about Him?
6. The disciples are impressed by the stilling of the sea. What is it about this miracle that is different and seemingly greater than the miracles that Jesus has already performed?
7. The questions that Jesus asks does not seem fair. These were experienced fisherman, if they were afraid of the storm it must have been intense. Why does Jesus ask them the questions that he does?"

APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. Verse 24 tells us to "take care what we listen to." What can you do to take care what you listen to? What are you regularly exposing yourself to that is harmless? that is good?
2. An overwhelming theme that runs through the parables in Mark 4 is the theme of growth. What areas of your life need growth? How can you increase your faith?
3. What does it mean for you to put your lamp on a lampstand and not under your bed?
4. Are there areas of your life that are out of control (that have a great storm blowing through)? List that area and ask God to come in and bring His peace to that situation. How can this group help you in that situation??

ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.