

INTRODUCTION.

Scripture text: **Mark 4:21-25.**

And He was saying to them, "A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, is it, or under a bed? Is it not *brought* to be put on the lampstand? **22** For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has *anything* been secret, but that it would come to light. **23** If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." **24** And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides. **25** For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."

THE LAMP.

- A. In this parable, the Lord used a common object (a lamp) in a familiar scene (a home).
- B. The lamp was a clay dish filled with oil, with a wick put into the oil. In order to give light, the lamp had to "use itself up;" and the oil had to be replenished. If the lamp was not lit, or if it was covered up, it did the home no good.
- C. The Apostles were like that lamp; they were called to shed God's light and reveal His truth. But they could not "give out" w/o first "taking in."
- D. We must take heed to WHAT we hear (4:24) as well as to HOW we hear it (Lk. 8:18). Our spiritual hearing determines how much we have to give to others (Mt. 5:14-16).

PARABLE OF THE BREAD OF LIFE

INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **John 6:30-36,48-58.**

So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? **31** Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'" **32** Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. **33** For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." **34** Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread."

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. **36** But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.

I am the bread of life. **49** Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. **50** This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. **51** I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

52 Then the Jews *began* to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us *His* flesh to eat?" **53** So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. **54** He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. **55** For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. **56** He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. **57** As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. **58** This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever."

B. Parables?

1. Some scholars do not consider these two passages of scripture to be parables due to the fact that Jesus did not use the phrase, "the kingdom of heaven is like unto...."
2. These two accounts are not even about the kingdom, but are Jesus' teachings about Himself and our relationship to Him.

JESUS CHRIST, THE BREAD OF LIFE.

A. The Bread of Life:

1. It gives and sustains spiritual life.
2. This bread is for the entire world, not Israel alone.
3. It creates spiritual life which leads to eternal life.

B. "I am the Bread of Life:"

1. No more hunger (see Mt. 5:6) to those who come.
2. No more thirst (see Jn. 4:14) to those who believe.

C. "Eating My flesh and drinking My blood:"

1. This is not transubstantiation.
2. Christ is to the soul, what food and drink are to the body.
3. This passage has reference to the entire Christian system.
4. It does have reference to the Lord's Supper but not exclusively.

D. Eating and drinking means fellowship:

1. The one who eats abides in Christ.
2. Christ abides in the one who eats.