

Lamp under a bushel

God called us to be light not so that people see us, but so that they see Jesus through us.

Meditation Verse: "Let your light so shine before the men, to see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16)

Biblical Lecture: Matthew 5: 14-15

Suggestions:

Ask the following questions: What do we light a lamp for? Why do we allow our light to hide? Are you shining?

Daily Readings

Monday: Matt 5: 1-10 Wednesday: Rom 13: 1-14 Friday: Col 1: 9-14

Tuesday: Matt 5: 13-16 Thursday: Psm 119: 105-112 Saturday: 2 Cor 4: 3-18

Introduction

We find this parable in the three synoptic gospels: Matthew 5: 14-15; Mark 4: 21-25 and Luke 8: 16-18. But this parable has its explanation in the version that we find in the Sermon on the Mount of Matthew 5: 14-15. In this parable we can find meanings related to the flame that can never be extinguished, which involve Christ, the gospel and the church. Christ as the source of that light, the gospel as the torch that contains it, and the church as the bearer who walks the world carrying that light wherever it goes.

I. Christ made us light of the world (Matthew 5:14 a)

"You are the light of the world", and in this context the light is the virtuous character of the people who follow him, who reflect all the virtues that Jesus has just mentioned in the beatitudes, because when he pronounces the beatitudes he is referring to the spiritual and moral virtues that must be manifested in his followers.

Jesus is the light of the world, he who follows him, loves him, worships him, receives him as Lord and Savior will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Of course, you are not light by yourself. The light that you shine is not your light but the light of Christ. They are not your virtues, they are not your ideas, however good they may be, but the truth of God revealed in His Word. Light and the world are two different things. The world without Christ is a world in the dark.

II. You are a city at the top of the mount (Matthew 5: 14b)

That city is Jerusalem, everyone knew that city, travelers could see the city and the temple from afar. At night her torches make her visible from the fields around her.

Likewise, it is impossible to hide the Christian virtues, it is like a light that shines, it is like a city on a mountain. The unfortunate thing is that many times we are more like the Pharisees than Christ, he is light, and if we are light today, it is only because we reflect the light that he has transmitted to us, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, so we must reflect the light of Jesus. Anyone who wants to be the light of the world must start by knowing Jesus.

You cannot hide what is visible. If a city is on a hill, inevitably everyone will see it. It cannot be hidden. It is impossible for you to be a light that does not shine. If you are light you can only light up. It is unavoidable. This is a logical argument of Jesus. The argument falls out of the bush. You cannot hide what is visible.

III. Lamp under a bushel or bed (Matthew 5:15 a)

This parable is known as the parable of the low lamp of a bushel" (a kind of drawer that served as a measure of capacity, and that not long ago was still used in some countries in Europe). The Greek word is "modios" (μόδιον), it appears three times in the NT and refers to a measure of aggregates, which had a capacity of around nine liters, we could say that it was a drawer.

The word bed (κλίνην), can be translated: bed, stretcher or cot, it is the bed for those who rest, for those who are sick or also for those who recline to the table to eat, it is also the bed for transporting the sick.

In Mark 4:21 the light is the message of the gospel and the teachings of the Lord. It is an exhortation to testify, the truths we have received are not to hide them, just as it is absurd to turn on a light and place it under a drawer or under the bed, so it is absurd for a Christian to hide his faith and not share it.

In verse 15 he describes the situation of lighting a lamp and placing it under the bushel, something we do spiritually. The believer often allows his spiritual light to be hidden. Why is it that we allow our light to hide?

IV. Lamp on a high place ... (Matthew 5: 15b)

Why do we light a lamp? So that it gives light to everyone in the house. Since God has made us light, we must give light everywhere, to all who see us, those who are close to us. The purpose of lighting a lamp is for it to shine. Thus, God has made you. You are light. That is your identity in Christ Jesus. And He tells you I know what you are. Live as a Christian because you are a Christian. As Christ has made you light, it is your duty to shine. And I ask you, are you shining? It is your duty to shine. If your whole body is full of light, having no part of darkness, it will be all luminous, like when a lamp shines on you with its brightness.

Conclusion

This is a truth that the Lord spelled out quite clearly in the Sermon on the Mount: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Just as the lamp is not turned on to put it under a box, it would go out and not fulfill its purpose, which is to light; in the same way the gospel cannot be kept silent, it must be proclaimed. Every believer is and should be like a lighted lamp, placed on high to illuminate everyone and thus come to know the truth. As the Lord comes, we must live each day in the disposition to bear witness to our faith, both with our words and with our lives.

I ask you, are you shining with your life, with your words and with your works?