

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

G . The Second Tour of Galilee

9. Jesus Concludes the Teaching Session With Three More Parables

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #095

Base Texts: MK 4.21-29; MT 13.34-35, 51-53 (Parallel Texts: MK 4.33-34; LK 8.16-18)

^M₂₁ He said to them, (The Parable of the Lamp on its Stand)

"Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl, ^Lor hide it in a jar, ^Mor under a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand, ^Lso that those who come in can see the light? ²² ^MFor whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.

²³ *"If anyone has ears to hear, I command them to keep on listening.*

²⁴ ^L*"Therefore, ^MI command you to make a practice of carefully considering what you hear. With the measure you are using, it will be measured to you--and even more. ²⁵ Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have--even what he has will be taken from him."*

²⁶ He also said, (The Parable of the Growing Seed)

"This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed keeps on sprouting and growing, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil continually produces fruit--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come, and remains."

³⁴ ^{MT}Jesus spoke all of these things to the crowd-- ^Mwith many similar parables he spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand; ^{MT}he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ^MBut when he was alone with his disciples he would explain everything. ³⁵ ^{MT}Thus what was spoken through the prophet was fulfilled:

"I WILL OPEN MY MOUNT IN PARABLES, I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD." (Ps. 78.2)

⁵¹ At the end Jesus asked: *"Have you understood all these things?"*

"Yes," they replied.

⁵² He said to them, (The Parable of the Owner of the House with New and Old Treasures)

"Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	Somewhere in Galilee, Near the Sea of Galilee

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Timeline	May--Oct. (Months Sixteen to 21)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	G. The 2 nd Tour of Galilee
Title	9. Jesus Concluded the Teaching Session With Three More Parables

COMMENT:

Jesus ended his first public teaching session using parables with three “main-point” ones. Each related in a different way to the seven that had gone before. Mark and Matthew’s comments at the conclusion of the text show us that the Lord actually spoke many more than just these ten stories that day. We merely have the most important core of the content in written form.

The eighth Parable of the “Lamp on its Stand” used the imagery of light to illustrate the revelation that comes from Jesus’ word. His word will ultimately “light up” every person in the world. No lie, untruth, or attempted cover-up will be able to keep out the truth at the final judgement. God speaks in order for the truth to be seen and heard, like a lamp placed on a stand. Because of the nature of God’s word as light, Jesus gave two overlapping commands in connection with this parable.

First, the Lord repeated the command for those who have some understanding of what Jesus means by his parables to **“keep on listening,”** or thinking about and responding to the truths hidden in the parables, until the come to full repentance and faith. Really listening is always hard work. However, making the effort to think as hard and long as is necessary to understand and obey what Jesus commands us is pure wisdom. It leads to powerful grace, and growing joy and glory. So Jesus encouraged his listeners to keep on listening and processing his words until they were bore their full fruit. This is as as pertinent for us today as the moment Jesus spoke it.

The second phase of the command warned of the necessity of carefully evaluating everything we hear. There are many weeds growing in the world. The majority of opinions and ideas we hear on any given day will continue to direct us down the wide word to destruction, rather than into Jesus’ gift of eternal life. So we must be careful about everything we hear, not just Jesus’ words. We must evaluate all information we process--every day--in the light of what Jesus has spoken. He is the criteria for truth.

The ninth parable of the “Growing Seed” was an addition to the opening parable of the “Sower, Seed and Soil.” It highlighted the way God has designed living seeds to never stop growing unit they have reached full maturity. Constant growth is designed into the DNA of seeds, on a 24/7 basis. God’s word also has the built in power to cause ceaseless, eternal growth into greater likeness to Jesus if we will but obey it. We can share God’s word with non-Christians with the absolute certainty that if they will believe and obey it, the power of God will create and grow their salvation.

The 10th and final mini-parable compared disciples of Jesus who were former Scribes and experts in the old covenant Law with the head of a great household who brings new and old resources out of his treasure to care for the members of his extended family. Jesus’ teaching was 100% consistent with the intentions and spirit of the old covenant Law. He came to fulfill it. But there were also incredible new blessings and benefits in the new covenant he would establish in his own blood--things so wonderful that angels long to look into them, and all the saints of old longed to experience as well. This was the rich legacy and inheritance of all the disciples of Jesus--then and now.

Now we will take a few moments to summarize where we are in the big picture. Opposition to Jesus continued to grow from this point until the very end of his ministry. Therefore, he continued to employ parables with the multitudes, including those who hated, opposed, or were not really listening to him, for the rest of his earthly life. Some of his most extensive parables will be delivered during Passion Week.

The second tour of Galilee occupied the summer months of Jesus’s second full year of ministry. The cluster of events we have covered so far all occurred on the first day or two of the tour. The description of the tour will now

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move through a sequence of six powerful miracles. This is the most prolific burst of consecutive miracles in the ministry of Jesus. Get ready!

In addition to shifting his message to the medium of parables for those on the outside, Jesus also adjusted his use of time with the twelve, and the larger core of full-time disciples during the second tour. Rather than ministering primarily to the large crowds that continued to flock to him, he spent more and more time training the workers who would continue his mission to all the nations after his return to heaven. Look out for intensive discipleship training to become more central in Jesus' ministry after the sequence of six miracles.

APPLICATION:

Jesus spoke in parables to those who were not his committed disciples, and explained the meaning of his parables privately to his disciples. This was how he "helped" and built up his disciples. This private ministry to his disciples was part of what he had in mind when he later promised that the Holy Spirit would become *"another helper just like me."* The disciples were used to Jesus explaining everything to them in private. That is how the Holy Spirit now works privately in the minds and hearts of believers today. As Jesus promised:

"All this I have spoken while I was still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you about all things, and will remind you of everything I have spoken to you." JN 14.26-27

The Holy Spirit has the ministry of enlightening our understanding about everything Jesus said in his ministry, so we are fully equipped to follow our Lord in the obedience that is an expression of love. This applies to all of the parables Jesus spoke, as well as every other teaching, promise, and command of Jesus' life as recorded in the New Testament.

Ask the Holy Spirit every day to open up your understanding about everything Jesus has spoken in his Word. You can be sure he will! How will you go about doing that on a daily basis?