



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

**LEARNING FROM THE MASTER
(JESUS CHRIST- OUR CHIEF CORNERSTONE)**

STUDY 20-30: THE PARABLES OF JESUS – PARABLES NO. 3 & 4

Text: Matt. 5:14-16, 8:24-27, John 8:12, 9:5, 1:9, 3:19, 12:35, Luke 6:46-49, 1 Corinthians 3:11

Parable No. 3 – Lamp on a Stand (Matt. 5:14-15)

“¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ”

Jesus often refers to himself (or is referred to) as the “light of the world” (John 8:12, 9:5, 1:9, 3:19, 12:35). What does he mean, then, by saying to mere men in this verse, “you are the light of the world”? One must interpret this as meaning that Jesus’ disciples, including us today, shine with His light by virtue of His spirit dwelling in them (and us).

We must never forget where the light comes from. It doesn’t come from you. You are not the source. You are not the generator. You are merely a mirror, a reflector. You are like the moon. As you all know, the moon has no light of its own. It merely reflects the light of the sun. In the same way, you have no light of your own. You are to merely reflect the light of Jesus. This means that you need to stay close to Jesus in order to reflect His light. You need to read the Bible and meditate upon the Word and pray and sing the Lord's praises. That’s the only way to stay close to the Light. That's the only way to reflect the Light.

Jesus uses two illustrations in this short parable (city on a hill and light in a house). How might these apply to us? (Matthew 5:16) Many Judean cities were founded on the summits or sides of mountains, and travelers could see them from far away. Perhaps Jesus pointed to such a city, telling His disciples that they were like it. The city built on an important location can be seen by many eyes over a wide area, representing a disciple’s far-ranging and widespread exposure to others. Jesus’ illustration of a shining lamp illuminating the home suggests a disciple’s more intimate influence. **A Christian’s actions cannot be hidden from the eyes of either our families or the world at large.** This being the case, one should live a righteous, holy, humble, and pure life, letting “your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Parable No. 4 - Wise and Foolish Builders (Luke 6:46-49)

This parable is the end of the sermon on the mount. (See Matt.8:24-27). What is Jesus' final message which he illustrates with the parable of building a house (Luke 6:46-47)? Here's the Lord speaking to the most religious people possible, the people in the right religion, Judaism. Jesus says, "The problem is you call me Lord but you don't do what I say." That's the problem. I'm not looking for your curiosity, I'm not looking for your fascination. I'm not looking for your admiration. I'm telling you what it is to be a true follower: He doesn't say, "listen to what I say" or "agree with what I say." He says "do what I say."

How does the parable illustrate what Jesus says we should do?

Jesus gives us a memorable illustration here. "The one who comes to Me hears My words and acts upon them," that's obedience. But then he goes on and says, "I'll show you who he's like. He's like a man building a house who dug deep," meaning that you should really get down to the realities of your own life—and also down deep into the truth of God, "and laid a foundation upon the rock."

What is the rock or the foundation upon which you should build your house?

(1 Corinthians 3:11) Rock is an Old Testament term for God, isn't it? And foundation is a New Testament term for Christ used a number of times, e.g., 1 Corinthians 3:11. So what you have here is the message of Christ which is about God as the rock, about Christ as the foundation, and the gospel. So whoever builds his life on the gospel, on the great cornerstone of the gospel from Matthew 16, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." That's the rock bed, cornerstone foundation. When you go down and you build your life on God in Christ and the gospel, storms of judgment can never move your house. That's somebody who just doesn't admire Jesus, but who embraces Him as Lord and Savior.

The main message in this parable is **not to just admire Christ, but to obey Christ.**