

# Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## “LESSONS FROM THE LAMP”

**Big Idea:** He is the lamp that reveals. We need ears that hear him well.

## Discuss

Jesus' question to his disciples at the start of this passage includes language that is strikingly similar to a part of his Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew 5:14-16. The focus here is not, however, on letting *our* light shine before the world (even though we are clearly commanded to do that in Matthew). Jesus is instead assuring his disciples that he is the Light who has *come* (this is what the Greek literally says—"the lamp does come"), and this Light will not be hidden. It will instead reveal everything.

- 1) On the one hand, the rhetorical question about the lamp was surely both reassuring and thrilling to his disciples and should be exciting to us as well. Read 1 Peter 1:8-12 and consider the wonder of Jesus coming into the world.
  - Was access to the Light restricted during Jesus' time? (Consider the timetable of Jesus' proclamation of his kingdom—see, for example, John 2:4, John 7:30, and Matthew 9:30.)
  - Is access to the Light restricted today?
- 2) On the other hand, Jesus is saying that everything hidden is meant to be disclosed, and everything concealed is meant to be brought out into the open—serious news indeed. (v. 22)
  - What kinds of things do we tend to think we can do secretly today?
- 3) Twice in this chapter of Mark, Jesus says that "He [or "anyone"] who has ears to hear, let him hear." (vv. 9, 23)
  - What kind of listening is Jesus urging people to do? (See vv. 24-25) Discuss how we can be serious and persistent hearers of Jesus.
  - In this and many other passages in both the Old and New Testament, there is a stress on human responsibility and a rebuke to those who do not listen or act. As Ephesians 2:8-10 and elsewhere make clear, however, we only come to faith through the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts. Our faith, our ability to listen, our ability to act on what we hear—all of it is a gift from God. Discuss how we should go about our daily lives, knowing that we are completely dependent on God and yet also held accountable for our thoughts and actions.

DATE: November 12, 2017

SPEAKER: Joe

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 4:21-25

## Pray

Praise Jesus, the Light of the world, who came into the darkness and made his dwelling among us.

Confess the times that you have received gifts and blessings from God, but then "measured out" your use of those blessings like a miser, keeping as much as possible for yourself.

Give thanks that everything hidden in our lives that is revealed by the light of Jesus is also covered by his sacrifice on the cross.

Pray that God will give you ears to listen to his Word. Pray also that God will enable you to use everything he has given you for his glory.

**PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS**  
Chattanooga Sports Ministries

**PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS**  
Phil and Amina serving in a sensitive area