

Title: Take Heed What You Hear

Passage: Mark 4:21-25

Introduction:

Book of Mark

Gospel = Good News

- God sent His only Son (Jesus) to die for us (sinful people).
- Some people heard the message and followed Jesus. Yet others thought he was mad (see Ch 3)

Context of Passage:

Ch 4: Parable of Soils

- Seed fall among 4 types of soil (hard, rocky, thorny, good)
 - Hard = resistant to Gospel
 - Rocky = emotional response of joy but real hardships lead to rejection
 - Thorny = choose the world instead of Jesus over time
 - Good = multiplicative fruit is borne supernaturally

Fruit (key word)

- When someone genuinely believes in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is placed within them.
- As a result, fruit of the Holy Spirit is borne within the person.
- Ultimate mark of a believer in Christ Jesus (while not saved by works/fruit, it reflects proof of salvation)

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

- Fruit is key evidence of genuine faith and changed heart.

Distinction: Fruit of Spirit vs. Works of the Spirit

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- False converts - their motivation is selfish and do things merely for their own glory.
- Example: Judas Iscariot (he did ministry but it was not genuine)
- You can pretend the fruit of the Spirit but ultimately, it cannot be produced humanly.
- 1 John: Aspects Transformed life of a believer: repentance (Ch 1), unselfish love for others, love for God.
- No human scheme can convert a person like Jesus

Passage: Mark 4:21-25

And [Jesus] said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

Overview:

I. Fruitful hearers (those who take heed) will visibly resemble the life of Christ (v. 21-22)

II. Fruitful hearers will obey Christ's word in an obvious way (v. 23-25)

I. Fruitful hearers (those who take heed) will visibly resemble the life of Christ (v. 21-22)

Mark 4:21-22

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Light

Lamp brought = lamp that comes

- meaning: Jesus is referring to Himself
- Jesus (the Lamp/Light) has come!

Mark 2:17

And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John (I am the light of the world)

- When Jesus comes, He did not hide but rather made Himself clearly seen by everyone.
- Contrast: Pharisees want to hide Jesus.

Implications

1. *Christian conversion is transformative. It will resemble Christ, the purity of God.*

Mark 4:22a

For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest;

Ephesians 5:1-4, 7-8, 13-14

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving....Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are

light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

- Once Jesus has come into someone’s life, you cannot hide it or fake it. It is like putting a lamp in a room, it is obviously lit.
- Works resemble the works of Christ.

1 John 2:6

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

2. *Christian conversion is public and visible to others*

Mark 4:22b

nor is anything secret except to come to light.

- you cannot say you were transformed by Jesus and it is only to be known by you and only in your heart.
- It’s not about perfection but direction of your life
 - is it focused on Jesus?
 - Is Jesus the Lord over your life?
- Examples: Matthew/Levi (the tax collector), Zaccheus, Saul/Paul
 - Once received Christ, we are transformed supernaturally.
- False assurance: it’s not about how you live but only your heart
 - Truth: a transformed heart will lead to a transformed life.

II. Fruitful hearers (those who take heed) will obey Christ’s word in an obvious way (v. 23-25)

Mark 4:23-25

If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

Proverbs 9:9

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

- when see the light, follow the light you do see and more light will be given

For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

- When we hear and obey Jesus, we grow in love for Him.
 - Contrast: when not in God’s Word, we grow apathetic.

John 10:14-16

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Application

If a Christian, examine yourself

- does Jesus shine in your light?
- If there is a law against Christianity, would you be accused?
- If someone observed you (ex: an international student following you), could they see Christ in you?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

If a Christian and complimented, praise God and give credit to Him.

- keep persevering and pursuing Christ.
- It is Christ in you that is the gift to the world

Ephesians 2:1-5

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

- remind yourself of the truth of the Gospel (it is by God's grace and mercy I am who I am and becoming)

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

If not a Christian, consider the message of the Gospel.

- come to Christ. He wants to give you life.
- Only through Christ, you can find genuine peace, joy, and life.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2 Corinthians 6:2

For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.