

Mark 4:21

And He said to them, 'Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed? Is it not to be put on a lampstand?'

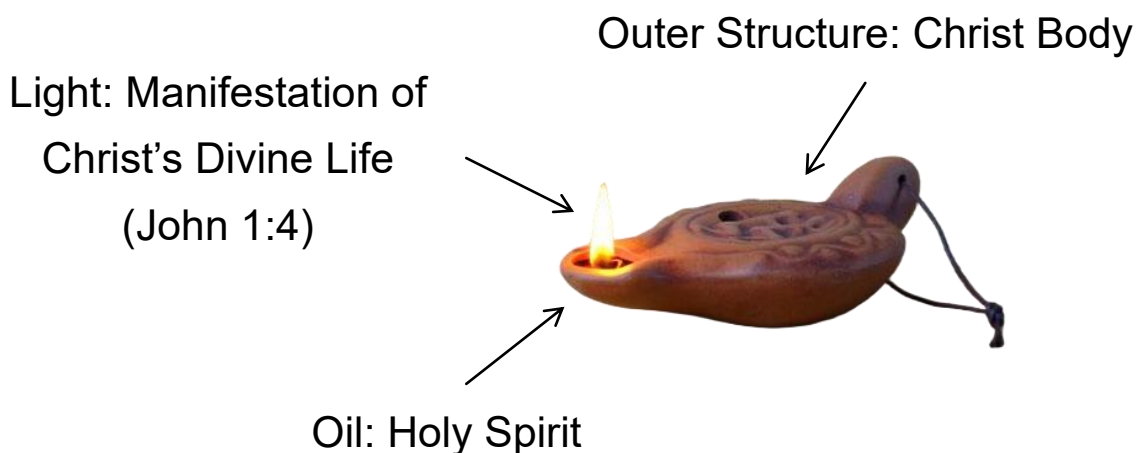
In Mark 4:21, we must first ask a key question: what does the “lamp” (λύχνος, lychnos) refer to here?

From the perspective of ancient lamp design, a lamp typically consists of two parts:

- An outer structure;
- The oil contained within it.

Spiritually speaking, oil often signifies the Holy Spirit, while the outer structure of the lamp can be understood as a “form” or “container” designed to carry the oil (the Spirit).

From this understanding, the lamp can be seen as a type of the **Lord Jesus Himself**, because He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and came into the world through the incarnation. He took on human form and became a true “lamp” in order that Himself might be ‘enlightened’ and ‘ignited’ by the divine life - Holy Spirit within him, so that He might illuminate and bring light to those who sit in darkness. (Matthew 1:21; 4:15–16)



Basket

When the Lord Jesus came to the world to carry out His ministry, He did not put Himself — True Light under the basket.



The “basket” was a wooden measuring vessel used in ancient greek to measure grain, and it therefore symbolizes **concerns for daily necessities such as food and clothing**. The Lord Jesus, while on earth, was not living in material abundance or comfort.

Yet when the trials of daily life came upon Him, He was never bound by anxiety over material needs. As when He fasted for forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, in His hunger Satan tempted Him to turn stones into bread. But the Lord answered, “It is written, Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God.”(Matthew 4:1-4)



Bed

The “bed,” on the other hand, symbolizes comfort and ease in life. To place the lamp under the bed means to place one’s ministry under a comfort zone — to follow the Lord merely for convenience and personal desire.



But our Lord did not live in this way. As He said to the scribes, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” (Matthew 8:20)

Therefore, the Lord Jesus, as this true Lamp who came into the world, when He was on earth carrying out His ministry, refused to place Himself under the basket or hide Himself under the bed, rather to put Himself on lampstand, that is church. (Rev 1:20)

Inspiration Summary after Bible Study

Throughout history, countless saints who love the Lord have longed to be placed among church by Father. Yet unwittingly, many of their motives behind ministering become mixed into the lust of the flesh.

For instance, when a saint is gifted and greatly used by the Lord in a certain way, their focus subtly shifts. No longer are they concerned with where the Lord would have them stand today, nor with obeying His will to bear witness for Him. Instead, they begin to care only about how bright their lamp shines, whether its light is great enough to be seen by all, and whether it will bring them praise from the world.

It is just like the Pharisees: while they claimed to honor God, they desired that everything they did might be seen by others. So they made their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long. They loved the best seats at banquets, the most important seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and called 'Rabbi' by others. (Matthew 23:5-6)

Therefore, I pray that the Lord would guard my heart and keep it pure and sincere. May the Lord grant us a heart that loves Him alone, desiring only to follow Him simply. Regardless of the circumstances the sovereign Lord places us in today, I choose only to trust Him and obey Him. May there be no mixture of my own will, nor anything else besides Him. I pray that God's hand would continue to purify me, that I may shine as true light, just like the Lord Jesus—the true Lamp—standing in the proper place to be Your glorious testimony. Amen.