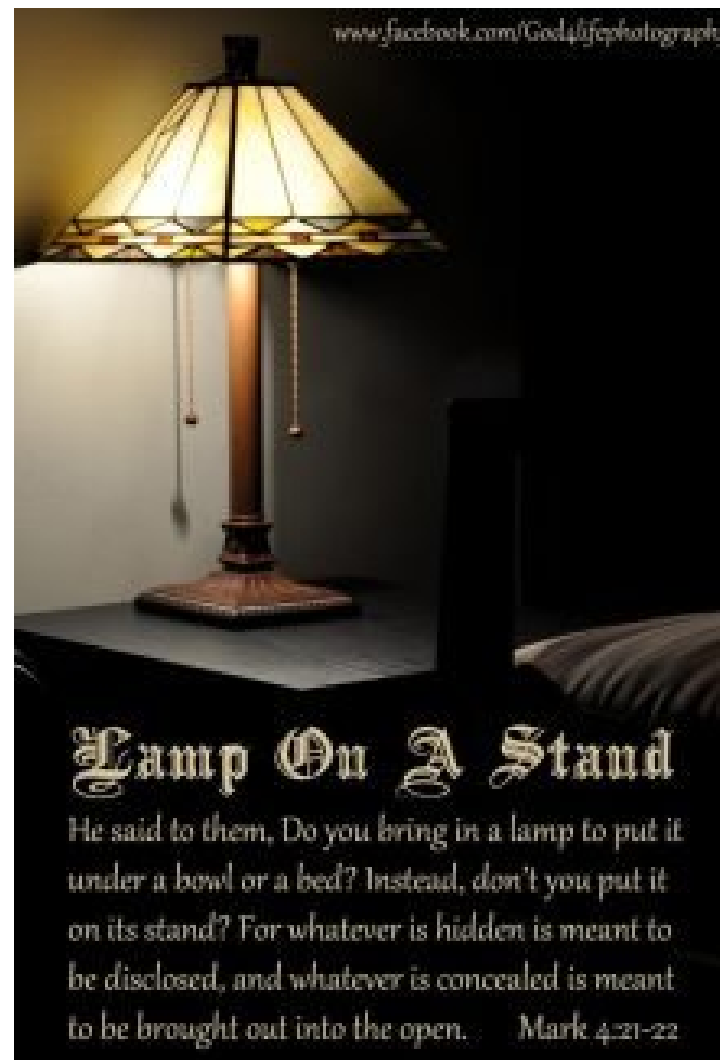




**The Basket and the Lamp-stand  
(Mark 4:21-25)**



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## Lamp On A Stand

He said to them, Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. . . . Mark 4:21-22

# The Basket and the Lamp-stand (Mark 4:21-25)



**The Basket and the Lamp-stand  
(Mark 4:21-25)**

# Definition: “Teleological”

3. Belief in or the perception of purposeful development toward an end, as in nature or history

From Greek *telos*: end, result

--*The American Heritage College Dictionary*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition

# Definition: “Exposition” in the Theatre

“The part of a play that provides the background information needed to understand the characters and the action”

--*The American Heritage College Dictionary*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition

# I. Exposition:

## Mark's Account vs. Matthew's Account

- A. A surprising twist: the light is *first* kept in darkness
  
- B. Mark's earlier experiences

# I. B. Mark's Earlier Experiences

Missions, failure, waiting, re-commissioning

# The Mark-Paul Connection: Paul and Barnabas Separate because of Mark Acts 15: 36-41

- <sup>36</sup> And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” <sup>37</sup> Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. <sup>38</sup> But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. <sup>39</sup> And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup> And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.



# Mark is reconciled with Paul

## II Timothy 4:11

- <sup>11</sup> Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.
- Mark as a “Judah figure” (brother to Joseph)
- Sermon: “Half Successes and Partial Failures”

## II. Under the Basket: A Testing and Building of Faith

### A. Sitting on the Bench: Patient Preparation

### B. The Dark Night of the Soul

1. *Deus Absconditus*: the God who is hidden
2. *si comprehendis, non est Deus* (Augustine)
3. God is preparing us in the dark, spiritual “valleys”

### C. Measuring Faith (Mark 4:24-25)

# Moses: Humble and Faithful

- “<sup>3</sup> Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth”
- “my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house”

--Numbers 12: 3, 7 (ESV)

# Paul's Preparation

## *After His Conversion and Preaching in Damascus*

“After Paul’s conversion, he disappeared into the desert for three years, during which time the Holy Spirit instructed him in the ways of God. He emerged, ready to communicate divine truth.

The Lord speaks to believers so that they will comprehend the truth, conform to the truth, and communicate the truth. These same steps form a roadmap to discipleship. What happened during Paul’s desert years was only the beginning of a life-long process—God renewed his mind and transformed him into the image of Christ.”

--Charles Stanley, “What Happened to Paul in the Desert?”

Christianity.com

## **II. Under the Basket: A Testing and Building of Faith**

- A. Sitting on the Bench: Patient Preparation
- B. The Dark Night of the Soul (John of the Cross 1542-1591)**
  - 1. *Deus Absconditus*: the God who is hidden**
  - 2. *si comprehendis, non est Deus* (Augustine)**
  - 3. God is preparing us in the dark, spiritual “valleys”**
- C. Measuring Faith (Mark 4:24-25)

# 1. *Deus Absconditus*: the God who is hidden

“<sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

--Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)

## ***2. si comprehendis, non est Deus*** **(Augustine of Hippo 354-430 A.D.)**

- Latin: “if you are comprehending [who God is], then it is not God

## ***2. si comprehendis, non est Deus*** **(Augustine of Hippo 354-430 A.D.)**

“<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

--Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV)



### 3. God is preparing us in the dark, spiritual “valleys”

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

--Psalm 23 (KJV)

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# **III. On the Lamp-stand: Sharing the Good News of God's Kingdom and Love**

- A. Not our light, but Christ's (Matthew 5:14-16)
  
- B. The Good News of Jesus as Savior and Lord

# IV. Takeaways: God's Ways are Sure

## A. God guides us

“<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

--Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)

## B. God strengthens our FAITH beyond our understanding

## C. Our reward: the thrill of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

# Let Us Pray

