

# "PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU HEAR" MARK 4:23-25

# The same parable in different contexts;

## **MATTHEW 7:2**

<sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and *with the measure you use it will be measured to you.* 

#### **LUKE 6:38**

<sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. *For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.*"

## Quantifying the un-quantifiable;

#### JOHN 3:34

<sup>34</sup> For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit *without measure*.

#### ROMANS 12:3

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each *according to the measure of faith* that God has assigned.

## **EPHESIANS 4:7, 13**

<sup>7</sup> But grace was given to each one of us according to the *measure of Christ's gift*...<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, *to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*.

Jesus places the burden squarely onto His hearers;

It is not enough to hear, understand, accept, and cling to the Word.

## The principle of return on spiritual investments;

#### PROVERBS 2:1-6

<sup>1</sup> My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, <sup>2</sup> making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; <sup>3</sup> yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, <sup>4</sup> if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, <sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

The Holy Spirit is never promised to honor spiritual laziness.

## An indicator of true spiritual life;

#### JOHN 14:21

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Jesus makes no provision for either the skill or the calling of the preacher;

## 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1

<sup>1</sup> And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God *with lofty speech or wisdom.* 

#### The factor of God's grace;

#### **LUKE 6:38**

<sup>38</sup> "...Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

#### **JOHN 1:16**

<sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, *grace upon grace*.

#### **ISAIAH 55:7**

<sup>7</sup> ...let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will *abundantly pardon*.

#### MICAH 7:18

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because *he delights in steadfast love*.

#### **JOHN 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that *he gave his only Son*, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

#### **HEBREWS 7:25**

<sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to *save to the uttermost* those who draw near to God through him, since *he always lives to make intercession for them.* 

United with Christ, our efforts and His supernatural power merge into one;

#### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:10**

<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

## **PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

God has determined that the path of knowing Him is the path of diligent devotion to His teachings.

The same parable in different contexts;

# **MATTHEW 25:29**

<sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

#### **LUKE 19:26**

<sup>26</sup> 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

## The principle of constant spiritual movement;

#### **LUKE 8:18**

<sup>18</sup> Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, *even what he thinks that he has* will be taken away."

#### **HEBREWS 5:12**

<sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food.

## As diligence causes the seed to grow, so negligence destroys it.

### True grace that is implanted in the soul is ever thirsting for more grace;

#### **ACTS 17:11**

<sup>11</sup> Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; *they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.* 

#### 1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-5

<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit *and with full conviction*...

#### 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13

<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God...

## PSALM 119:10, 14, 18, 20

- <sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!
- <sup>14</sup> In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.
- <sup>18</sup> Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.
- <sup>20</sup> My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times.

# The Scriptures do not recognize any true child of God who pursues God with anything less than a whole heart; JEREMIAH 29:13

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

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