



Sermon Notes

Term – Autumn Term

Series – Mark's Gospel

Gathering & Date – 4th November 2018

Title – Lamp on a Stand

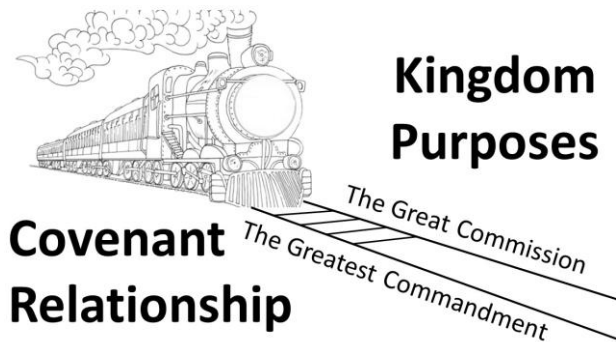
Preacher – Neil Shepherd

Reading: Mark 4:21-25

Main message of this talk in one sentence: The Kingdom of God is manifest in our lives as we let the light of Jesus bring all things under His Lordship.

Main points –

Review:



As an introduction to the year, we looked at the 'train tracks' that God has given us on which to live our lives. The two tracks of Covenant relationship (the greatest commandment) and Kingdom Purpose (the great commission).

Today, we looked at the engine on the tracks as a metaphor for our individual lives.

Question: what is the state of our lives? Are we a shiny, healthy engine or are there parts of us that need renewing?

Read the bible passage

This is one of several parables on Mark 4 that refers to the Kingdom of God and Jesus. The other parables refer to the kingdom of God as a seed – the parable of the sower, the growing seed and the mustard seed. In the middle of these parables is a parable about the lamp.

How does the kingdom of God come in our lives? Jesus talks about a lamp being placed in a room on a stand. Jesus is referring to Himself as the lamp being light in the 'room' of our lives which can either shine out into that room or be hidden and ignored.

Jesus teaches us that the kingdom of God is made active in our lives when His light brings 'every hidden into the open and every secret brought into the light' If we let Jesus highlight these areas in our lives and bring them to the cross of transformation then we are made whole.

The verses from 1 Peter 3:15 points us to the need to allow our hearts to be focused on Christ as Lord. The Kingdom of God is manifest in our lives as we allow the Lordship of Jesus to reign in every area of our lives.

For further thought and prayer –

1. Introduction – reflect on the train as a metaphor for our lives. What is the state of our lives? Can your life a score out of 10?
2. Re-read the passage – what stands out for you?
3. Have you thought about the room representing your life and Jesus as the lamp? If not, does this give you a fresh understanding on this parable?
4. Where is Jesus shining His light into your life today in order to bring a Kingdom perspective? Take some time together to listen to Father God and ask him what he is wanting to highlight for you? Discuss any area that have been raised?
5. Share stories of God’s faithfulness and how He has brought about healing and wholeness for you as an individual or within your family context.
6. As we recognise God’s voice speaking about an area that he wants to shine his light, ask Him what you need to do so that you can make a plan of action.
7. Pray for each other, committing the plans you have made to God, so that you can see breakthrough in the area of wholeness that God wants to bring.