

**“Live Openly; Listen Carefully”**  
February 1, 2026   Pastor Todd McAllister  
**Mark 4:21-25**

**Parables by the Sea**

“The whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. And He was teaching them many things in parables.” *Mark 4:1-2*

**Why parables? *Mark 4:10-12***

**Live Openly**

“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.”

*Mark 4:21-22*

Focus: Live openly because nothing can remain \_\_\_\_\_.

Under a bed—hidden because of \_\_\_\_\_ activity

Under a bushel—afraid of what \_\_\_\_\_ may say or do

On a stand—desire for the \_\_\_\_\_ to be glorified and for people to be helped

⇒ Application: How does the reality that there is nothing that can remain hidden affect how you live?

**Listen Carefully**

“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” *Mark 4:23*

Issue: Not a physical problem with ears being able to hear, but rather a \_\_\_\_\_ issue of being unwilling to listen

⇒ How prepared are you to intently listen to the Word of God?

“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.” *Mark 4:24-25*

**“Live Openly; Listen Carefully” (continued)**

Focus: Listen carefully so that you can receive \_\_\_\_\_.

What had they been \_\_\_\_\_?

\_\_\_\_\_ teaching about Jesus

Jesus is out of His \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is casting out demons through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Satan.

Gossip and slander

\_\_\_\_\_ teaching: when you hear it, use a \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ teaching: when you hear it, use a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Mark 4; John 5:24, 8:31-32*

⇒ Application: There are many voices in our society. How careful are you to pay attention to what you hear?

\_\_\_\_\_ of the measure you use:

More will be \_\_\_\_\_.

What you have will be \_\_\_\_\_.

⇒ When you hear false teaching, what measure do you use?

⇒ When you hear true teaching, what measure do you use?

⇒ What changes do you need to make so that more will be given to you?

(continued on other side)

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Under a bed—hidden because of sinful activity

Under a bushel—afraid of what others may say or do

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⇒ Application: How does the reality that there is nothing that can remain hidden affect how you live?

Listen Carefully

“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” *Mark 4:23*

Issue: Not a physical problem with ears being able to hear, but rather a heart issue of being unwilling to listen.

⇒ How prepared are you to intently listen to the Word of God?

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**“Live Openly; Listen Carefully” (continued)**

Focus: Listen carefully so that you can receive more.

What had they been hearing?

False teaching about Jesus

Jesus is out of His mind.

Jesus is casting out demons through the power of Satan.

Gossip and slander

False teaching: when you hear it, use a strainer.

True teaching: when you hear it, use a bucket.

*Mark 4; John 5:24, 8:31-32*

⇒ Application: There are many voices in our society. How careful are you to pay attention to what you hear?

Results of the measure you use:

More will be added.

What you have will be taken away.

⇒ When you hear false teaching, what measure do you use?

⇒ When you hear true teaching, what measure do you use?

⇒ What changes do you need to make so that more will be given to you?

(continued on other side)