

The Way of Indirection

Mark 4:21-34

²¹ 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? ²² For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”

²⁴ “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. ²⁵ Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Parables & Art: The Way of Indirection

Stories work in a very particular way.

It is the way of the heart.

The place of convergence of feeling, thought and decision.

This is the way of Jesus.

This is the way of F3C.

We will visit 4 parables. They are all related and build on one another.

Even the previous parable with the sower.

Parable of the Lamp & Bowl: Revelation (Slide)

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Light is meant to illumine hidden things.

Hidden in us.

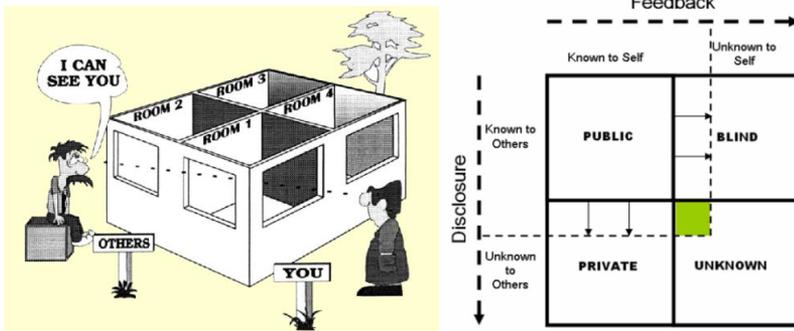
Hidden in our culture.

"Those who have ears, let them hear."

- means "Pay attention" and "Consider carefully & thoughtfully"

How much of your life is hidden?

Johari Window created by Joseph Luft and Harry Ingham in 1955 to provide a model of self-understanding.



The way of Jesus is to lay open what is hidden.

Parable of the Measure: Discernment, Perspective, Wisdom (Slide)

²⁴ "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. ²⁵ Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them."

Assumption, Experience, Pre-disposition, Agendas, Judgement

All play into how we hear and how we listen.

Those who are open and humble can grow - they listen with open hearts.

Those who assume, who are proud - they have ears but do hear.

What they have will be taken away from them.

Because what they have is illusion.

Assumptions hurt us and others.

Truth sets us free.

What do you assume? We hear what we assume.

Parable of the Plant: Growth (Slides)

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A seed cannot grow on its own.

It is a mystery.

It is the mystery of life and living.

You cannot make yourself grow but you can participate in your growth.

A seed simply receives.

In the same way, we too must remain open to the ways of God.

We may have our assumptions, experience, pre-disposition, education that keep us from being curious, open.

We simply don't pay attention.

We are meant to receive mercy, grace, direction and love.

Parable of the Mustard Seed (Slides)

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

Very simple message.

The Kingdom begins small but will grow large.

F3C is small, but our ideas are enormous.

Within a single seed is the miracle of an entire forest.

What is small in your now can grow

into something that changes the world.

And by world, I mean your world and the world of those around you.

Do You Understand?

In what ways have you grown in your faith as you look back?

How was what was hidden revealed?

How did your willingness and attitude play into your growth?

How have you been surprised?

Give thanks on behalf of one another.