

Listen to the Light

➤ Pay attention to _____

- Jesus has come to _____ on the work of God.

- _____ to the light you hear today will influence the light you will be given tomorrow.

➤ _____ for His kingdom.

- _____ and enjoy the harvest as you trust God for growth.
- Trust that God can do _____ with small beginnings.

Make It Real

Because of what Jesus has done for me and what I have heard today . . .

1. *I will examine myself to see where I am failing to live up to what I know from the Word of God. I will confess this, stop making excuses, and begin to apply what I know with His help. (If you need wisdom or counsel on how to make changes, contact one of the pastors or a solid biblical friend).*
2. *I will stop wringing my hands over the way others are engaging with the gospel and trying to force their growth and stick to God's plan for me to plant seeds, rest, and trust Him to work.*

Personal observations from the message.

1. *How would you summarize what you learned in a sentence or two?*
2. *What was something you didn't know or were reminded of?*
3. *What point or verse did you find most helpful? Why?*
4. *What is a question you have?*

Discussion questions from the message.

1. *How many of you would say that you might be a little obsessed with control? (How many of you are sitting next to someone who may be a little obsessed with control?) Why is this such a draw for many of us? Why can it be good? How can it cause problems – at work, at home, with relationships, with kids, with ministry?*
2. *Read Mark 4:21-23. (1) What are some things in the shadows of the Old Testament that Jesus brings into the light? (2) Why do you suppose God kept some truths in the dark until the time of Jesus?*
3. *Read Mark 4:24-25. We need to pay attention to the light Jesus gives us. (1) What happens if we listen and do what we hear? What are the implications of this? (2) What happens if we fail to listen and do what we hear? (3) Why is this such a significant warning? (4) What does this look like in everyday life?*
4. *Read Mark 4:26-29. (1) How is the kingdom of God like farming? (2) What is the responsibility of the farmer? (3) What is NOT the responsibility of the farmer? (4) What is the significance of this when it comes to ministry (to parenting, relationships . . .)? (5) How does the seed grow? (6) What does this teach us about the power of the seen (the Word)?*
5. *Read Mark 4:30-34. (1) How is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed? (2) Why is this surprising? (3) What are the implications of this when it comes to the ministry? (4) Why do we so easily discount the value of small things in ministry? (5) What "ministry mustard seeds" are you planting and trusting to grow into something big?*
6. *How does this passage help reshape our desire to be in control (particularly in the work of ministry)?*