

Stewarding Understanding

Mark 4:21-25, 33-34

Jesus' use of parables and his careful timing about when and how much to disclose to whom, should not be confused with a strategy to hide the truth. He came to reveal truth and to shine a light into the darkness of the world. But it would be in His _____.

Discussion 1. What possible reasons might God have for waiting to disclose particular spiritual truths to a person? Why might He have done so with you? Would fifteen-year-old you have been able to handle all the spiritual truth you have today?

When it comes to spiritual understanding, there is a very real sense that you get out of it what you put into it. _____ is _____; it begins small and, depending on how we engage that small amount, it grows from there.

Discussion 2. For you personally, what do you think it means to “steward your spiritual understanding well”? Can you give an example?

Regarding spiritual understanding, the rich really do get _____ and the poor get _____. It is a part of the good (or poor) “stewardship” of spiritual truth on each person’s part.

Discussion 3. What role do spiritual disciplines play in helping you be a good steward of your spiritual understanding? Which spiritual disciplines help you the most in this regard?

Never lose sight of just how bewildering Jesus’ teaching can seem to someone who does not have the benefit of the indwelling Spirit of God, opening their spiritual eyes and then _____ to spiritual truth.

Discussion 4. When you compare your own spiritual understanding to that of people who you know to be nonbelievers, how do you see the Spirit of God helping you? What difference do you believe the Spirit makes in your life?