

Luke 11:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

Analysis

No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light (Οὐδεὶς λύχνον ἄψας εἰς κρύπτην τίθησιν οὐδὲ ὑπὸ τὸν μόδιον ἀλλ' ἐπὶ τὴν λυχνίαν)—Jesus returns to the lamp metaphor (also 8:16) illustrating truth's self-evident nature. A luchnos (lamp) exists to illuminate, not be hidden. The purpose clause emphasizes revelation's missionary intent: hoi eisporeuomenoi (they which come in) must see the light.

Context suggests Jesus addresses the Pharisees' spiritual blindness (v.34-36). Despite Jesus's public ministry ('on a candlestick'), they demand more signs, failing to recognize light already shining. The issue isn't insufficient revelation but defective perception—their 'eye' is evil (v.34), rendering them unable to see clearly presented truth.

Historical Context

Oil lamps were primary light sources in first-century homes, typically placed on stands to maximize illumination. Hiding a lit lamp would be absurd and dangerous. Jesus uses this universally understood domestic image to critique those who, despite his public ministry, claim they cannot perceive his messianic identity. The light is visible; the problem is spiritual blindness.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage challenge claims that God hasn't provided sufficient evidence for faith?
2. In what ways are you called to be a 'lamp on a candlestick' rather than hiding your Christian witness?
3. What causes spiritual blindness to clearly revealed truth—stubbornness, pride, love of sin?

Interlinear Text

Οὐδεὶς	δὲ	λύχνον	ἄψας	εἰς	κρυπτόν	τίθησιν	
No man G3762	G1161	a candle G3088	when he hath lighted G681	it in G1519	G2927	putteth G5087	
οὐδὲ	ὑπὸ	τὸ	μόδιον	ἀλλ'	ἐπὶ	τὸ	λυχνίαν
neither G3761	under G5259	they which G3588	a bushel G3426	but G235	on G1909	they which G3588	a candlestick G3087
ἵνα	τὸ	εἰσπορευόμενοι	τὸ	φέγγος	βλέπωσιν		
that G2443	they which G3588	come in G1531	they which G3588	the light G5338	may see G991		

Additional Cross-References

John 12:46 (Light): I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.