

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 eisporoumenoi (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 G1161 a candle when he hath lighted it in G2927 putteth
G3762 G3088 G681 G1519 G5087

οὐδὲ ὑπὸ τὸ μόδιον ἀλλ' ἐπὶ τὸ λυχνίαν
neither G5259 they which a bushel but on they which a candlestick
G3761 G3588 G3426 G235 G1909 G3588 G3087

ἴνα τὸ εἰσπορευόμενοι τὸ φέγγος βλέπωσιν
that they which come in they which the light may see
G2443 G3588 G1531 G3588 G5338 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.