

Mark 4:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

Analysis

Jesus warns: 'Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.' The command 'take heed' (βλέπετε) means careful attention to quality and content of teaching received. The principle 'with what measure ye mete' teaches that receptivity determines reward—those who eagerly receive truth gain more understanding; those who neglect it lose even what they have. The phrase 'unto you that hear' (ὑμῖν τοῖς ἀκούουσιν) distinguishes genuine hearers (who receive and obey) from mere auditors. Responsive hearing produces increasing understanding; dull hearing produces increasing darkness. This is both promise and warning.

Historical Context

The 'measure' principle appears throughout Scripture: seed sown abundantly reaps abundantly (2 Corinthians 9:6); those faithful with little receive more (Matthew 25:21); judgment corresponds to light received (Luke 12:48). Ancient commerce used various measures—honest merchants used accurate measures, dishonest used false ones (Leviticus 19:35-36; Deuteronomy 25:13-15). Jesus applies this to spiritual realm: generous reception of truth produces abundant growth. Early church emphasized diligent Scripture study and application. Church history records that those who treasure God's word grow in grace; those who neglect it drift into error.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does your receptivity to biblical teaching affect your spiritual growth trajectory?
2. What 'measure' are you using in receiving God's word—eager, generous reception or careless, stingy attention?
3. How does this principle motivate diligent Scripture study and application?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἔλεγεν	αὐτοῖς	Βλέπετε	τί	ἀκούουσιν	ἐν	ῷ
And	he said	unto them	Take heed	what	that hear	with	what
G2532	G3004	G846	G991	G5101	G191	G1722	G3739

μέτρω	μετρηθήσεται	μετρηθήσεται	ὑμῖν	καὶ
measure	it shall be measured	it shall be measured	to you	And
G3358	G3354	G3354	G5213	G2532

προστεθήσεται	ὑμῖν	τοῖς	ἀκούουσιν
shall more be given	to you	G3588	that hear
G4369	G5213	G191	

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 2:1 (Parallel theme): Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

Luke 8:18 (Parallel theme): Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

Acts 17:11 (Parallel theme): These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Matthew 7:2 (Parallel theme): For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

John 10:27 (Parallel theme): My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

2 Corinthians 9:6 (Parallel theme): But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Proverbs 19:27 (Parallel theme): Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

Isaiah 55:3 (Parallel theme): Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Mark 9:7 (Parallel theme): And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

John 5:25 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.