



**Main point: Listen carefully to God's Word**

- 1 - No ordinary lamp
- 2 - Pay attention to what you hear
- 3 - The kingdom comes but we don't know how
- 4 - The kingdom ends big

**#1:**

“Parables are like stained glass windows in a cathedral, dull and lifeless from the outside but brilliant and radiant from within. Or to borrow an analogy from Jesus (Mark 1:17), they are like fishing. There is a hook hidden in the bait. The hook is the word of God, which is personified in Jesus. Parables cannot be understood apart from the one who tells them. Parables are not simply good advice, they are good news; for the life of Jesus is itself a parable, indeed the greatest parable.”

James Edwards  
The Gospel According to Mark

**#2:**

John 8:12

Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

**#3:**

“Attention to this great principle is the main secret of spiritual prosperity. The man who makes rapid progress in spiritual attainments – who grows visibly in grace, and knowledge, and strength, and usefulness – will always be found to be a diligent man. He leaves no stone unturned to promote his soul’s well-being. He is diligent over his Bible, diligent in his private devotions, diligent as a hearer of sermons, diligent in his attendance at the Lord’s table. And he reaps according as he sows...Do we wish to grow in grace? Do we desire to have stronger faith, brighter hope, and clearer knowledge? Beyond doubt we do...Then let us live fully up to our light, and improve every opportunity...”

J.C. Ryle

Mark: Expository Thoughts on the Gospels

**#4:**

“Knowing God’s design in suffering is one of the main means of growing through suffering. If you think your suffering is pointless, or that God is not in control, or that he is whimsical or cruel, then your suffering will drive you from God instead of driving you from everything but God – as it should.”

John Piper

Future Grace: The Purifying Power of Living by Faith in Future Grace

**#5:**

James 5:7

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

**#6:**

Habakkuk 2:2

And the LORD answered me:

“Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so he may run who reads it.

For still the vision awaits its appointed time;

it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;

it will surely come; it will not delay.

**#7:**

2 Peter 3:4

They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

**#8:**

“Let us leave the parable with a resolution never to despise any movement...in the church of Christ, because at first it is weak and small. Let us remember the manger of Bethlehem, and learn wisdom. The name of him who lay there, a helpless infant, is now known all over the globe. The little seed which was planted in the day when Jesus was born, has become a great tree, and we ourselves are rejoicing under its shadow. Let it be a settled principle in our religion, never to ‘despise the day of small things’ (Zech. 4:10).”

J.C. Ryle

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