

## MARK 4:24-25

## HAVES AND HAVE NOTS

<sup>24</sup> “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. <sup>25</sup> Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.”

What is “it”? Whatever “it” is, I can use “it” and “it” can be given to me. If I have “it,” then I’ll get more, yet if I don’t much of “it,” even what little I have of “it” will be taken away. Does the statement that I should pay careful attention to what I hear have to do with this warning or what was said before?

When isolated from the rest of the passage, these verses have been used to encourage generosity with money during teachings on stewardship and to reinforce using the blessings you have received in order to bless others. Such instructions are commendable and consistent with Scripture, but they are not what these verses are about.

Jesus is the light of reality and truth. That light is revealed to us through Scripture as we listen to God’s word. *Consider carefully what you hear.* “It” is the truth.

Our postmodern culture, by denying that there is any such thing as overall truth, has lost sight of the truth. We are told that we live in society where every person is free to define his or her own truth, and to do so unchallenged by any other person or institution. The result is the psychological and moral chaos in which we live. Those who deny the truth ultimately lose all sense of truth and are like ships without anchors. In the end, they experience that even the idea that they are free to define their own truth is a lie. In contrast, those who seek the truth, find it, and those who incorporate the truth into their lives have more of the truth revealed to them. *Consider carefully what you hear,* for the one speaking is Truth incarnate, Jesus Christ. Listen to him; follow him; and you will grow in your knowledge of the truth.

**Lord, I want to know the truth because I want to know you and the Father.  
Protect me from the lies of the world and keep me focused on your word.  
Create an open heart in me for the reception of your truth and a willing  
mind to incorporate the truth in to my life. May the Holy Spirit focus my  
eyes and tune my ears to receive your revealed truth. Amen.**