

“Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given — and you will receive even more. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”  
Mark 4:24-25 NLT

## lectio // Mark 4:21-25

Jesus starts his teaching with an ordinary object that helps people understand because we are visual, visceral learners. He talks about a lamp. Nice thing about this object is, it existed pretty much then as it does now. They had oil lamps, we have LED lamps. I have a lamp in my living room, and Robin and I both have a lamp by our bed. We set lamps on tables, not on floors. We even like “can” lights up on the ceiling because they light the room appropriately. Point, we don’t put lamps low, we set them up to project light where we want it. However, Jesus spiritual point is that light exposes. His light exposes. He then comments, for his followers sake (his disciples), (are you a follower of Jesus, then we should also listen) that they should employ ACTIVE LISTENING. What is active listening? Active listening is hearing with our ears, but asking with our brains. It’s listening, not waiting to answer, to talk, to blurt out information, but instead to question. Active listening engages our heart, soul and spirit. It allows for an internal dialog of reflection, of pondering. It is not an easy skill, but it is necessary to receive more of what God wants to say and not less. Jesus straight out tells them, you want MORE understanding? Then listen with more than just your ears! I would say, engage as many senses as possible to listen intently. If it’s a lamp, see it’s light, see where the light goes and does not. Turn it off and on to feel the difference in your body between the light being on versus off.

## oratio

Dad,

Our world is FILLED with so many object lessons, vivid reminders of what you are constantly saying to us. I pray that I would be an active listener. I pray that I do not RUSH to the punchline, or try to out google you or impress you with stats, facts and sound bytes of the day. I pray that I would engage all my senses, my whole being to listen to what you are saying. So then, I would not only HEAR what the Holy Spirit is saying, but I would be given more understanding next time. And, that I would be quick to be obedient when asked to put it into practice, by acting on what you say.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root