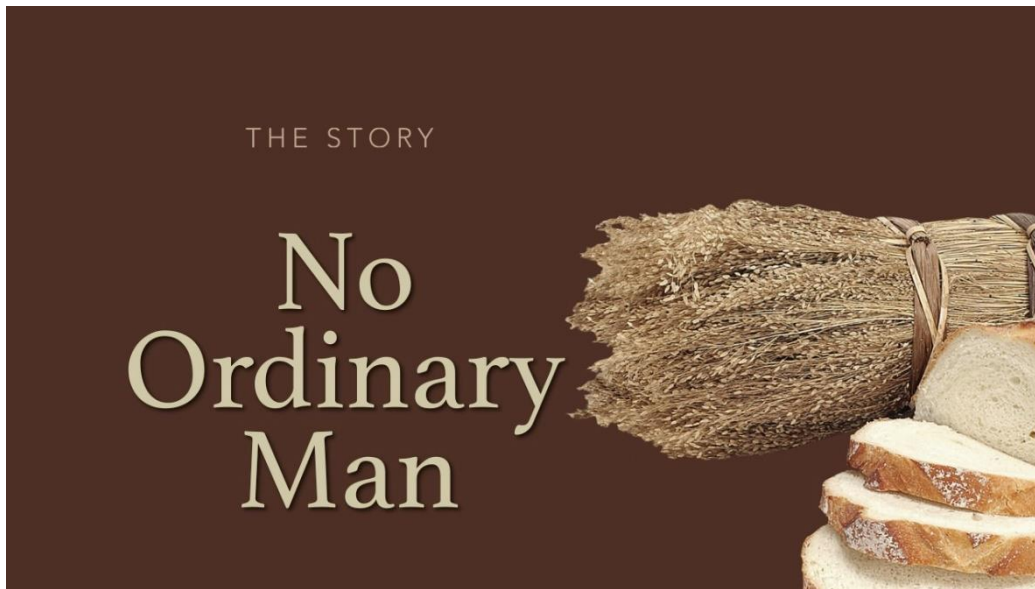


Chapter 24: No Ordinary Man



Discussion Questions

- 1) Jesus' teachings in parables and His miracles are the focus of this chapter
 - a) Which parable stands out to you?
 - b) Which miracle stands out to you?
- 2) Jesus' teaching drew a crowd – so much so that they came from far and near pressing close to hear and be near to Him.
 - a) Why do you believe He was such a popular figure?
 - b) Why do you believe people were so hungry to hear what Jesus had to say?
- 3) How many types of soils were in the parable of the sower?
 - a) What prevented the first three seeds from growing?
 - b) What happened to the fourth seed?
- 4) Why did Jesus say he was teaching in parables? Do you see any parallels between Jesus' day and the present when people speak the truths of scripture to people?
- 5) It is very interesting that only 25% of the seed produces a crop – Jesus' words are 30, 60, even 100 times. Have you seen how God's word does produce spiritual fruit? Give examples from your experiences.
- 6) Isn't it interesting the different responses of the types and groups of people to Jesus' teaching?
 - a) How did the Tax Collectors and sinners respond?
 - b) The Pharisees and teachers of the Law?
 - c) The Disciples?
 - d) The Sick?
- 7) What three things were lost in the trilogy of "lost parables"?
 - a) What was the reaction when they were found?
 - b) What was the point of each of these "Lost & Found" parables?
- 8) The Prodigal son: What was the initial desire of the younger son? How did that change by the end of the story?
 - a) Do you know any prodigals?
 - b) How did that situation resolve? (Assuming it has)

- c) How did God show His faithfulness?
 - d) What is the hardest/most difficult part for the 'faithful' when a prodigal returns?
 - e) What was the reaction of the older brother?
 - f) What correction did he require?
 - g) What was the reaction of the father to both sons?
 - i) Why was this reaction so scandalous?
- 9) What must someone do to inherit eternal life?
- a) How did the lawyer answer?
 - b) How did Jesus respond to the answer He was given?
 - c) What did the parable of the Good Samaritan expose in the attitude of the lawyer?
 - d) How difficult is it for us to love our neighbor as yourself?
- 10) Which beatitude stands out to you today?
- a) Which one is most encouraging to you?
 - b) Which one is most paradoxical?
- 11) What does it mean for salt to lose its saltiness?
- a) How does this apply to spiritual life?
- 12) How does Jesus instruct His followers to pray?
- 13) What is the negative example of how to pray ("*don't do this*")
- a) What is the positive example?
- 14) What does it mean to forgive our debtors?
- a) What is Jesus' warning about forgiving sins?
- 15) How exactly does one store up treasures in heaven?
- a) What is the reason Jesus gives for making this a priority?
- 16) Why does Jesus say, "do not worry"?
- a) What can't you do by worrying?
 - b) Why is it difficult to adhere to this?
 - c) What does not worrying show you're trusting in? (*if anything at all?*)
- 17) What is the rock a person builds their life on?
- a) What can this withstand?
 - b) What is the opposite of building on a sure foundation?
 - c) Have you had personal experiences where you found you had built on rock or sand? What happened?
 - d) If you built on sand how do you prevent that from occurring again?
- 18) How does Jesus being asleep in the back of the boat reflect His humanity?
- a) How does his calming of the storm reflect His deity?
 - b) What storms of life do we often need to increase our faith through?
- 19) Supernatural evil is real. Jesus addresses it head on with the account of the Gerasene Demoniac.
- a) What does the presence of these evil beings cause the man to experience and do?
 - b) Is any human means of dealing with the demon possessed man effective? Why or why not?
 - c) What was the town's solution?
 - d) What did the demons recognize about Jesus?
 - i) What did Jesus do

- ii) What kind of example for us is this account?
 - iii) How did the town respond to Jesus' action on behalf of the man?
- 20) The woman with the hemorrhage who was healed – how was she healed?
- i) What was her rationale for what she did?
 - ii) What was Jesus' response to her faith?
 - iii) Did Jesus know who touched Him (*before He asked*)? What does this show us?
- 21) Does Jesus heal all the people in Galilee or the Decapolis or Jerusalem?
- a) What was required for those who were healed?
 - b) Were there people of faith in Judea who were not healed?
 - c) How are we to react/respond when we are given diagnoses of illness or experience sickness?
- 22) Isn't it interesting that Jesus' warning/command to the blind men was disobeyed? Why do you believe this was the case here?
- a) Are there any other of Jesus' commands which are similarly ignored today? Why do you believe this is so?
- 23) The pharisees were trying to discredit Jesus words and ministry. What was their disinformation campaign?
- a) Do people today attempt similar tactics? If so, how so?
- 24) John the Baptist:
- a) Why was he arrested?
 - b) What was his "crime"?
 - c) Are there similar instances today that you've heard about?
 - d) What does John's martyrdom give us example to do?
 - e) What does the opportunity for harm that Herodias nursed for John show us about the character of those who are called out for their immoral behavior?
 - f) What should be the consistent response for those who "openly sin" by those who have been forgiven by Jesus?
 - g) Do Christians need to be on guard against such attacks (*like Herodias*)
 - i) If yes, how so?
 - ii) What can we do when we experience such attacks?
- 25) What was Jesus attempting to do when the crowd of five thousand (*men*) found Him?
- a) What was Jesus' response?
 - b) Have you ever had opportunity to minister out of a deficit?
 - i) If so – How did God show His faithfulness?
 - ii) What was the result of such an act in the Story?
 - iii) What was the result in your situation?
- 26) How impossible is it to walk on water when it's not winter in Minnesota?
- a) What were the disciples' response to seeing Jesus do this?
 - b) What was Peter's in particular?
 - c) What impossible things have you seen Jesus accomplish because you believed what He said?
 - d) What was the response of the disciples in the boat after this event?
 - e) Was this an appropriate response? If so Why?

- f) Why is worship an immediate response to something miraculous?
- 27) The Last message recorded in this chapter – What was the essence of Jesus sermon to the crowd that had gathered?
 - a) Why was it a difficult sermon?
 - b) How can Jesus give His flesh to be eaten?
 - c) What is the result of “feeding on” Jesus?
 - d) What was the reaction of many to hearing this message from Jesus?
 - e) What have you seen to be the reason people most often reject or walk away from the good news or the message of Jesus?
 - i) Why do you believe this to be so?
 - f) What was the response of the disciples?
 - g) How have you responded to such hard teachings?
 - i) How have you reconciled the truth of Christ and the way you desire the world to be?
 - ii) How do you do that consistently?