

BA Devotional: Matthew 13-16

If you want easy answers, don't read Matthew 13–16. These chapters aren't spiritual chicken soup—they're divine dynamite.

Jesus stops talking plainly. He starts speaking in parables—kingdom codes only the hungry will crack. He's not hiding the truth. He's filtering out the casual crowd. This is where the **shallow** gets exposed and the **serious** get equipped.

The question echoing through these chapters is simple:

What kind of man are you?

Is Your Faith Rooted or Decorative?

Jesus starts with the **Parable of the Sower**. Four kinds of soil. Only one bears fruit.

The *hard path*—you hear truth, but Satan snatches it instantly.

The *rocky soil*—you receive it emotionally but fall apart under pressure.

The *thorny ground*—you start strong, but money, stress, and distractions choke your faith.

The *good soil*—you receive the Word, obey it, and multiply it.

The seed isn't the problem. The soil is.

God's Word will always work—but only where a man is fully surrendered.

Are You Watching Miracles or Walking in Faith?

In Matthew 14, Jesus feeds the five thousand. Everyone's full. The crowd is amazed. But later that night, He sends the disciples into a storm—and *walks on water toward them*.

Peter steps out in faith. For a moment, he's doing the impossible.

But fear creeps in. Eyes drift. And he starts sinking.

Jesus doesn't say, "*Why did you try?*"

He says, "*Why did you doubt?*"

Some of you have taken the first step. You got out of the boat.

But fear started calling the shots again.

Faith doesn't mean you never doubt. It means you keep walking anyway.

Are You Following Rules or Surrendering Your Heart?

In Matthew 15, the Pharisees criticize Jesus for not washing hands the "right" way.

Jesus responds:

“These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.”

He’s not anti-tradition. He’s anti-hypocrisy.

He then praises a Canaanite woman—a Gentile outsider—with more faith than any religious leader. Why?

Because she didn’t care about status. She *wanted Jesus*.

She was desperate, persistent, and humble.

That’s the faith Jesus honors—not clean hands, but a hungry heart.

Are You Saying the Right Thing—but Resisting His Way?

Then we hit Matthew 16.

Jesus asks the question every man must answer:

“Who do you say I am?”

Peter nails it: “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”

Jesus affirms him, calls him a rock, and gives him spiritual authority.

But just moments later, when Jesus says He’s going to suffer and die, Peter rebukes Him.

And Jesus turns and says,

“*Get behind Me, Satan!*”

That’s the danger of half-surrendered faith.

You can call Jesus King—and still fight His cross.

Peter wanted power without pain. Glory without suffering. A crown without crucifixion.

Sound familiar?

Devotional Challenge

Jesus asks you today the same question He asked Peter:

“*Who do you say I am?*”

Not with your Instagram bio.

Not with your Sunday attendance.

With your life.

Do you trust Him when He leads into discomfort?

Do you obey even when it costs you popularity, control, or reputation?

Do you step out of the boat—or just admire the waves?

Ask God to show you your soil.
Ask Him to strengthen your faith.
Then declare: “*You are the Christ—and I will follow You wherever You lead.*”

Final Word

Men don’t drift into surrender.
You must *decide* who He is—and then *live like it*.

So, take up your cross.
Answer the question.
And don’t flinch when the Word cuts.
It’s sharpening you for war.

