

The Story: Chapter 24 Not An Ordinary Man

Matthew 5-7, 9, 14,
Mark 4-6
Luke 10, 14
John 6

Chapter 24 of The Story covers a large portion of the teachings of Jesus.

His teaching was primarily about the coming Kingdom of God.

- The Kingdom and rule of God in Heaven and the spiritual rule of God on earth. In and through His children.

The teachings covered were...

- The Beatitudes
- The whole Sermon on the Mount
- A number of the parables that Jesus would use to teach on the Kingdom.
- He teaches us not to worry.
- To seek God first and let Him take care of everything else.

One of the big questions the Disciples had for Jesus was why He was only teaching through parables.

Let's look at that part first:

Matthew 13:10-17

¹⁰The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" ¹¹He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹²Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

" 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵For this people's heart has become

calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Explain:

The one parable that I want to look at quickly is the parable of the sower:

Matthew 13:18-23

¹⁸ "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. ²² The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

I want to focus on this particular section:

Matthew 13:20-21

²⁰ The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

The Root:

- I think one of our struggles in church, and in the Christian life today, is helping people develop strong ROOTS in their spiritual lives.

Too many people get all excited about Jesus and then don't grow the roots needed to stand strong when the enemy comes around.

One think we must do as a body is figure out how to make sure each of us is growing strong roots for a strong, firm foundation that is required to fight through the battles that come our way.

Blessing of Good Roots:

- Provide **nourishment**
- Give a **strong foundation**

Psalm 1:3

Says we will be "firmly planted by streams of water..."

A good place to start developing our roots is knowing how to pray!

And, it just so happens that these passages include the portion where Jesus taught His Disciples how to pray:

Let's break that down and see what we can learn.

Matthew 6:5-13

⁵"And when you pray,

1. **Prayer** is an **expected** part of our relationship with the Father.

do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

2. Do not pray in order to be **heard by others**.

There is a difference between personal prayer and corporate prayer: Your personal prayer should be between you and God.

- Corporate prayer should be about things that relate to the entire body.

When you are praying with others, corporately, you should not be praying with a heart of pride so that others will be impressed with your prayer.

⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

3. It's more about your **heart** than it is about your **words**.

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

" 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

4. Remember, you're talking to your **Father!**

What does that mean to you?

- Honor
- Respect
- Comfort
- Love
- Grace

¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

5. Our prayer is about **God's will** more than **our will**.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

6. All of your **needs** are welcome before the Father.

¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

7. **Repentance** is still required for a forgiven people.

I John 1:9 says...

As a part of our prayer time every day we should be asking our Father if we have offended Him in any way.

- Our sin must be dealt with in the proper way.
- Even as forgiven people, our sin still gets in the way.

Skip to 14:

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins..

8. **Forgiveness** is also a **requirement** for a forgiven people.

Back to 13:

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

9. Always ask for **guidance** and **protection** from the One Who sees the **Upper Story**.

Our Father is truly the One with the ultimate road map.

- He's already been where we're headed.
- No one better to guide you around and through the traps than someone that's already been where you're going.