

Chapter 24

No Ordinary Man

Day One – Teacher

Today's reading: Page 335 through break on page 343

This reading covers: Matthew 5-7; Mark 4; Luke 10, 15

Summary: Jesus teaches in everyday language so the people can understand.

Consider this:

Jesus' parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son all convey one truth: God seeks after what is lost. Why would this have been such a radical concept to those religious leaders schooled in the law? The story of the Good Samaritan ends with a direct command, "Go and do likewise." If you agree those words weren't just meant for the audience that day but for you as well, think of some small acts of kindness you can do every day to obey this command. When asked how to pray, Jesus gave his disciples a succinct example that includes praise as well as requests for needs, protection and forgiveness. Think about your prayers. Are they forced and contrived or are they genuine conversations from the heart?

For further reading: Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 4:2-6

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I love you. I thank you for the spiritual truths you so clearly gave to all "who would have ears to hear." Help me love my neighbor. Thank you for the privilege of being able to talk to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day Two – Miracle Man

Today's reading: Break on page 335 through the fourth paragraph on page 349

This reading covers: Matthew 9, 14; Mark 4-6

Summary: Jesus performs miracles that show who he is.

Consider this:

What is your definition of the word miracle? Do you think the word is used too casually today? On the other hand, if a proper definition of the word is "an act that only God can perform," what would you say to someone who stated, "God no longer performs miracles like he did in the Bible?" Besides healing, what other benefits did the recipients of Jesus' miracles receive? What benefits can you receive from reading about Jesus' miracles?

For further reading: Psalm 77; John 10:22-30; Acts 2:22-24

Prayer:

Savior King, I stand amazed at the miracles you performed while you were here on earth. Thank you for the miracles you still perform today in and around my life. Thank you for rescuing me from my sin. Amen.

Day Three – Hard Teaching

Today’s reading: From the fifth paragraph on page 349 through end of chapter

This reading covers: John 6

Summary: The crowds followed because of food, but Jesus is the bread of life.

Consider this:

For some, Jesus was merely entertainment or someone they hoped would become an earthly king. He astounded them with his interpretations of the law and his miracles, but they somehow missed the big picture: he was the Messiah! Why did Jesus compare himself to the manna of his listeners’ ancestors? What do Jesus’ symbolic words, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life,” mean to you? What significance does the Lord’s Supper hold for every Christ-follower?

For further reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-5; Luke 4:1-4

Prayer:

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.” We hunger and thirst for you, dear Jesus. Fulfill us and sustain us as we grow in our relationship with you. Amen.