

THE Story

Lesson 8 Chapter 24 No Ordinary Man (Pt 1) p.335-337

1. "Parables are not bedtime stories to put you to sleep, but rather bugle calls to wake you up!"

"Parables are both mirrors and windows. As mirrors, they help you see yourself. As windows, they help you see life and God."

"Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings!"

"A parable is a story that places one thing beside another for the purpose of teaching. It puts the known next to the unknown so that we may learn."

"Each parable contains a basic element of the nature of God and how He works in our lives. In short, the parables are God's own story about Himself."

Which of these statements about parables do you like the best and why?

2. Why do you think Jesus used parables as a way to teach people?

3. Chapter 24 opens with the parable of the sower, which is recorded in 3 of the 4 gospels. Why might it be true that if you understand this parable, you will better know how to use the Bible and how to share it with others?

4. Why did Jesus compare God's Word to seed?

5. The sower is one who shares the Word....what qualities are needed for a sower to be effective?

6. The soil represents the human heart and Jesus suggests there are 4 types. What does He teach us about....

THE HARD HEART (seed along the path)....

THE SHALLOW HEART (seed on rocky places)....

THE CROWDED HEART (seed among thorns)....

THE FRUITFUL HEART (seed on good soil).....

7. On the middle of page 336, Jesus tells a parable about a "lamp on a stand." If Jesus' message is a lamp that reveals truth, what is implied message for us?

8. The next paragraph is a parable about growing seed. What part does man play in the growth of God's Kingdom? How much of the growth is out of our hands?

9. From the bottom of page 336 to the top of page 337 we introduced to a parable about a mustard seed. What does the contrast between the small seed and the large bush teach us about the Kingdom of God?

10. As you review this portion of God's inspired Word, what truths do you learn about our humanity....sins to avoid & examples to follow

about our God... His promises to claim & His character to embrace