The Story: Chapter Twenty-Four

No Ordinary Man

*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,****15****and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;[*[*e*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mark+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-24227e)*] repent and believe in the gospel.”*  (Mark 1:14-15)

**A Parable:**

* What is it?
  + There are at least **35** parables used by Jesus in the Gospels.
  + A parable is as **lower** story story with an **upper** story message.
  + A **teaching** tool used by Jesus with an **expected** response.
  + Not **everything** in the parable is a direct correlation.
* **The Sower and the Seed** (*The Story* p. 335-336)
  + 4 types of soil:
    - **Hard ground**
    - **Rocky ground**
    - **Weedy ground**
    - **Healthy ground**
  + The point:
    - God’s **gracious** and **universal** offer of salvation: The Word!
    - The variety of **faith** responses by people to the Gospel.
    - The admonition to believers to **spread** the Word.
* **The Lost Ones** (*The Story* p. 337-339)
  + Who is the parable directed at?
  + Why is Jesus telling this story?
  + What is the central theme in each?
  + What are the key points?
    - A lost sheep:
    - A lost coin:
    - A lost son (who knew he was lost):
    - A lost son (who didn’t think he was lost):

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| **The Miracle** | **The People** | **The Method** | **The Result** | **Their Faith** | **His Authority** |
| **The Calming of a Storm**  (p. 343) |  |  |  |  |  |
| **The Freeing of a Demon Possessed Man**  (p. 343) |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Curing of a Woman with a Chronic Illness**  (p. 345) |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Raising of Jairus’ Daughter to Life**  (p. 345) |  |  |  |  |  |

**Applications:**

* Jesus is **expecting** a response of **faith.**
* We can trust Jesus in the midst of **storms.**
* Jesus has **authority** over both the **natural** and **spiritual** worlds.
* We can **cling** to Jesus even when the Lower Story seems **hopeless**.
* Jesus possesses the **power** of **life**.
* We should **seek** Jesus, **believing** He is our salvation.
* Jesus sees the **big picture**, and has a **plan**.
* We may not **understand**, but we will follow Jesus **by faith**.
* Jesus is the **Word**, and the Holy Spirit prepares the **heart.**
* We can be faithful with the task **entrusted** to us and spread the **seed.**