

CHAPTER 24
No Ordinary Man

Journal your answers to these questions as you read through the chapter this week. You may wish to read one day and journal the next, or spread the questions over the whole week.

1. Review the story of the soils (p. 335-336). Which best fits your faith walk?
2. Who do the shepherd and the woman in the lost sheep and lost coin parables represent? What do they value (p. 337)? Compare what God values in these parables to what the Pharisees value (see Luke 11:42-43 and 16:14.) Has your heart aligned more with God's or with the Pharisees' in the past week?
3. What does the Sermon on the Mount (p. 342, Matt. 6:25-34) teach you about worry and anxiety? In light of Jesus' teaching, what should be your relationship to wealth and material possessions?
4. Describe the Gerasene demoniac before and after his encounter with Jesus (p. 343-344). Compare this with Paul's description of every believer in Ephesians 2:1-10. What can you learn from this man about gratitude?
5. Review the healing of the woman with the bleeding disorder (p. 344-345) and then look up Leviticus 15:25-30. What do you suppose her life had been like for the past twelve years? How do you treat social outcasts and the infirm?
6. Jesus said to the crowd who followed Him, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill" (p. 349). Have you ever looked to Jesus to take care of your Lower Story needs? What is the right balance between Lower Story needs and an Upper Story perspective?
7. Jesus' miracles were not random; they showed his power over different forces in this world. What forces did He conquer? What areas of your life do you need to show more trust?
8. If you could go back in time and be an eyewitness to the Sermon on the Mount or experience any one of His miracles firsthand which would you choose and why?