

The Story
NOT AN ORDINARY TEACHER
Matthew 7:28-29
March 30, 2014

INTRODUCTION

a. **Who is the most famous person you have ever met.** How did you feel and what were you thinking. What impact did it have on you?

1. As a freshman in college I went with a number of friends to New York for the NIT, when it was a significant tournament. One afternoon we were wandering the streets and going into shops. I went into FAO Schwartz, the toy store and my friends were still outside. I stepped on the elevator and there was Red Skelton, the comedian. I was dumbstruck, we watched his show every week at my house. He smiled and I asked for an autograph. He was gracious. I told him about the ritual at my house and he asked about my parents and my sister. I asked if he was going to be there a while because I knew my friends would never believe I had met him. He said he would be a while and so I went to get my friends. When I brought them back he shouted, "Robin, I'm over here" – my friends were impressed. He asked how my folks were doing and said to give his best to my sister. He never let on that we had just met and neither did I.

2. I had the honor of travelling with Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ. He had a profound impact on my life as he modeled what living by faith is all about

b. **Your life is impacted when you meet extraordinary people**

c. **Jesus was no ordinary teacher** and today in The Story we are going to take a look at some of what he taught.

1. The crowd reaction at the end of Jesus' most famous extended teaching, "the Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7) reflects the idea that Jesus was no ordinary teacher.

2. Read **Matthew 7:28-29 (NIV)** - *When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

I. JESUS THE RABBI

a. **In the New Testament times the term "Rabbi" meant "Teacher" or "Master"**

1. It specifically was used of a man schooled in the law of Moses.

b. Each rabbi had developed their own interpretations of the law and would gather followers around them who would be devoted to their teaching and then continue to teach it to others.

1. **Each rabbi would have "disciples" who would follow after them and learn from them.**

c. **The rabbi's teaching was called a "yoke"**

1. To come under a rabbi's teaching was to take on his yoke

d. **Now think about what Jesus did.**

1. In his ministry he first called disciples to follow and learn from him

a. The disciples called Jesus "Master" or "Lord" signifying the respect they had for Him

2. Let me show you how this understanding of a rabbi's teaching is important to us.

a. Read **Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)** - *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

b. **Jesus is calling us to follow him and his teaching**

II. JESUS' YOKE

a. **Jesus used many methods when he taught.**

1. **He used sermons** like the one referred to earlier – Sermon on the Mount, these contained direct commands
2. **He used parables.** These were using every day common things to teach spiritual truths – the lost sheep and Good Samaritan are examples
3. **He set an example for the disciples to follow** – He taught them to pray
- b. **The core of Jesus’ teaching is found in what are known as the “Great” statements**
 1. The Great Commandment
 2. The Great Criteria
 3. The Great Commission
- c. These three give us; the What he taught, the How we are to live out his teaching and the Where we are to live it out.
- d. These reveal Jesus’ core values and commitments
- e. **It is in these three statements that we see just how radical and extraordinary Jesus’ teachings were and are still today**
- f. What I want to do is to consider each of these and then look at how Jesus emphasized them in his teaching

III. THREE GREAT STATEMENTS

a. The Great Commandment

1. Read **Mark 12:28-31 (NIV)** - *One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

a. These two come from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18. It is the first time they are used together

b. Here Jesus ties together loving others with loving God

2. **Jesus holds this foremost in his teaching and uses it as a lynchpin for all his teaching.** It will all come back to these two.

3. **Here Jesus uses direct challenge and parables to teach and emphasize this truth**

a. **He challenges directly the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees** (the religious leaders)

1. In the **“Woe to you” statements in Matthew 23** Jesus calls them dirty dishes and white washed tombs – clean on the outside but dirty and full of death on the inside

b. **When challenged by the religious leaders for eating and associating with sinners - people they would never think of speaking or eating with - Jesus told three parables found in Luke 15**

1. These are the “Lost” parables – the lost sheep, coin and son

2. **Jesus reminds them that these are the ones he came for and they are important to God** – We search for them until we find them just like we would looking for one of the lost items he described

4. He gave them a direct command

a. **Matthew 6:33 (NIV)** - *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

5. **His teaching challenged the selfishness and self-centeredness of the people** and reminded them that life is about worshipping the Father and not about me

b. The Great Criteria

1. **Matthew 25:34-40 (NIV)** – “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’” Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’” The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

2. Jesus tells us that it is not about those I am comfortable being around or those like me but rather He stretches me and says it is about the least of these – those who cannot do for themselves

3. I am to live out my Loving God and Others by serving those who need it the most and receive it the least.

4. Look at what he teaches in **Luke 14:12-14 (NIV)** - Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

a. To the least of these – those others would leave out

b. You live out your faith by serving those who cannot repay

c. Risk your reputation and standing with your friends and befriend and welcome and invite the outsiders

5. **Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan.** When the religious people refused to help a Samaritan helped even though he was despised by the Jews.

6. Are you catching just how radical Jesus’ teaching are?

c. The Great Commission

a. **Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)** - Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

b. **Here Jesus gives us the “Where” we are to live out his teachings.** We are to take his teachings into all the world and make disciples or followers of Jesus, teaching them what we have learned from him

c. He teaches that all who come to him will be received

1. **John 6:37 (NIV)** - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

2. **John 3:16 (NIV)** - “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

d. In this he assures us that his presence and power will be ever present with us.

d. The core of his teaching is found in the Great Commandment, Criteria and Commission

IV. JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

a. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray and he gave them what we call “The Lord’s Prayer”

1. **It is a prayer for disciples to pray** – those committed to following Jesus

b. Let me close with this thought on the Lord’s Prayer – it comes from an unknown author:
I cannot say “our” if I live only for myself.

I cannot say “Father” if I do not endeavor each day to act like His child.

I cannot say “who art in heaven” if I am laying up no treasure there.

*I cannot say "hallowed be Thy name" if I am not striving for holiness.
I cannot say "Thy kingdom come" if I am not doing all in my power to hasten that wonderful event.
I cannot say "Thy will be done" if I am disobedient to His Word.
I cannot say "in earth as it is in heaven" if I'll not serve Him here and now.
I cannot say "give us this day our daily bread" if I am dishonest or seeking things by subterfuge.
I cannot say "forgive us our debts" if I harbor a grudge against anyone.
I cannot say "lead us not into temptation" if I deliberately place myself in its path.
I cannot say "deliver us from evil" if I do not put on the whole armor of God.
I cannot say "Thine is the kingdom" if I do not give the King the loyalty due Him from a faithful subject.
I cannot attribute to Him "the power" if I fear what men may do.
I cannot ascribe to Him "the glory" if I'm seeking honor only for myself, and
I cannot say "forever" if the horizon of my life is bounded completely by time.*

c. Jesus taught his disciples so that they would teach others and on and on His teachings would go through the ages.

His teachings will radically change lives.

Has your life been changed?

His teachings continue today through those of us who are following Jesus.

Who are you encouraging to follow Jesus?

Bow with me in prayer

8:30 #357 "JESUS LOVES EVEN ME"

11:00 "HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD"