

Why Did Everyone Miss Out?

Pharisees and the Religious Leaders – Pride and hatred blinded their eyes.

Their comfort and positions, those were things they would never relinquish

The People of Jerusalem – They longed for salvation, but everything had to be on their terms and in their time.

The Rich Young Ruler

“The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders and interfering with God's work within us.” – Tozer

Jesus' Disciples – They loved Jesus, but they did not understand the truth. They were faithful but dull of hearing.

Their lack of prayer and diligent listening and understanding led to fear

Matthew 13:20-21 - ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles

Luke 22:24-30 – The Disciples arguing who is the greatest, even after Jesus washed their feet

Martha – She was too busy even serving Jesus to listen to Jesus.

Luke 10:41-42 - ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.

Troubled (worried in NLT) – turbazo (toor-bad-zo) – to make trouble, to disturb or trouble. To make turbid*

*Turbid – Thick or opaque with or as if with rolled sediment. Heavy with smoke or mist. Deficient in clarity or purity. Characterized by producing obscurity – as in mind or emotions

Careful (upset in NLT) – merimnao (mer-im-nah-o) – to be anxious (same word Paul uses in Philippians 4:6, “Be anxious for nothing...”). To care or take thought (over-thinking)

Matthew 13:22 - ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

How Not to Miss Jesus

Be still – Psalm 46:10 – Be still and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

Still – Raphah (raw-faw) – to slacken, to cease, to let alone, to draw towards evening

Luke 5:15-16 – Tells us Jesus went to be alone to pray. Most times, being alone is required for stillness before God

Micah 7:7 – As for me, I look to the Lord for help. I will wait confidently for God to save me and my God will certainly hear me.

Remove agendas, pride, and desire for ease.

Pray and listen – 1 Kings 19:11-18 – God is in the quiet and small more than in the big and loud

Ecclesiastes 5:1 – Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; draw near to hear rather than give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil