

The Story Chapter 24

No Ordinary Man

Digit Struck Out

Give the following instructions to a friend:

Add together the following six numbers found in Chapter 24 of *The Story*.

- (A) The total number of silver coins in Jesus' parable of the woman who loses a coin.
- (B) The number of sons in the parable of the Prodigal Son.
- (C) The number of people in the parable of the Good Samaritan who passed the man who was robbed (including the Good Samaritan) .
- (D) The age of Jairus' daughter who was dying.
- (E) The number of loaves of bread that Jesus used to feed the 5,000.
- (F) The number of fish that Jesus used to feed the 5,000.

Now add in any number from 66 to 964.

You should have a three-digit number.

If the first and last digits are the same, change one of those digits.

Reverse the order of the digits.

Subtract the smaller number from the larger.

Multiply the result by any number that you wish (Yes, any number!).

Now strike out any one of the digits in the answer (except a zero).

Now have your friend add the remaining digits and tell you the sum.

You will now tell your friend the digit that he or she struck out.

(1) If the sum is less than 9,
subtract the sum from 9 and that is the digit struck out.

(2) If the sum is 9, then your friend struck out a 9.

(3) If the sum is more than 9, then add the digits of the sum together.
If the sum is still greater than 9,
keep adding the digits together until you get a single digit.
Then subtract from 9 to get the digit struck out.

Why does this work?

When you subtract the numbers, you always get a multiple of 9.

That means that the sum of the digits is a multiple of 9.

When you multiply by any number, the answer will still be a multiple of 9.

So, the sum of the digits is a multiple of 9.