

**“WEEDS”: A Sermon Series About The Competitors Of A Productive Life.
Part 2: *Searching For God Knows What***

Mark 4:3-8, 14-20 (ESV)

3 “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 8 And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

1.) Seeds only release their power as they go deep.

2.) The condition of the soil determines the yield of the harvest.

3.) Roots have to overcome many competitors.

How does material wealth deceive us?

- By making promises it can't keep.
- By promoting itself as the answer to our problems.
- By becoming the barometer of God's blessing.

How Can We Uproot The Deceptive Weed of Chasing Riches?

1. Eliminate “more” from your joy equation.

Philippians 4:11-13, *“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”*

2. Remember that earthly riches will never conceal your spiritual poverty.

HEBREWS 13:5, *“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”*

Revelation 3:17, *“Because you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,’ and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.”*

3. Realize your value doesn’t rise or fall with how much stuff you accumulate.

Luke 12:15, *“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*

4. Steward your resources as though God personally handed them to you.

Luke 16:10-12, *“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”*

5. Grow in the joy of generosity.

2 Corinthians 9:7, *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*