

# A Warrior's Notes

## Roots

“And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.”—**Mark 4:17**

“As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.”—**Galatians 6:12**

These two verses expose a common spiritual danger: faith that avoids suffering will never grow roots.

In **Mark 4:17**, Jesus describes hearers who receive the Word gladly, but because the Word never takes deep root, pressure exposes shallowness.

The problem is not persecution—it is rootlessness. When hardship comes “for the word's sake,” offense replaces obedience.

In **Galatians 6:12**, Paul reveals the motive behind religious compromise. Some preferred outward approval over inward conviction, changing the message of the cross simply to avoid persecution. They were not denying Christ openly—but softening the truth to protect themselves.

Together, these verses teach us: When acceptance matters more than allegiance, retreat replaces endurance.

Israel at Kadesh-barnea. (**Numbers 14:1–4**).

Israel believed God enough to leave Egypt, but not enough to enter the land under pressure. When giants appeared and fear arose, they murmured, retreated, and desired to return to Egypt. Their faith had movement without depth—no root in trust. They feared opposition more than they trusted God’s promise. Like **Mark 4:17**, adversity revealed what comfort had concealed.

Peter’s Denial. (**Matthew 26:69–75**).

Peter boldly confessed Christ in public, yet when persecution came, he denied Him three times. His fear of suffering momentarily outweighed his loyalty to Christ. But unlike the Galatians who compromised to avoid persecution, Peter wept bitterly and later stood boldly in **Acts 4–5**, proving that repentance can restore depth where fear once ruled.

Shallow faith is excited by blessing but offended by hardship.

Fleshly religion seeks approval; rooted faith accepts reproach. The cross cannot be carried by those who fear the crowd.

Roots are grown in pressure, not applause. “Lord, make us rooted—so we do not retreat when the cost is real.”