



Thorns That Choke — Breaking Free from the Weeds

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Matthew 13:7, 22; Mark 4:19 (NIV)

1. The heart of man competes with the Word of God.

- a. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. (Matthew 13:7)
- b. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22)
- c. Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (Proverbs 4:23)

2. Three Weeds That Prevent Growth: Worry, Wealth, and Worldly Desires

a. Worry

“Do not worry about your life ... Look at the birds of the air ... Are you not much more valuable than they?” (Matthew 6:25-26 NIV)

b. Wealth

“The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” (1 Timothy 6:10 NIV)

c. Worldly Desires

“Do not love the world or anything in the world.” (1 John 2:15 NIV)

3. The Solution – Pruning, Surrender, and Multiply

“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.” (John 15:2 NIV)

Pruning isn't punishment; it's preparation. God removes distractions to free space for growth.

The Parable of the Talents (ESV) (Matthew 25:14-30)

Godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor. (Proverbs 28:8)

ADMIT

BELIEVE

CHOOSE

Be the Good Soil

Manna Church, the world doesn't need more religious noise—it needs people whose lives *flourish* with the life of Christ. When you see clearly and hear deeply, you become a walking testimony of God's grace. Your workplace, your neighborhood, your family—they become fields ready for harvest.

Our mission: To Change the World.... Requires us to be people whose hearts are soft, whose ears are open, and whose lives reveal Jesus to a world desperate for truth.

Reflect and Discuss

1. What are some things of this world that are competing for your heart?
 2. What boundaries could you utilize to guard your heart?
 3. Which of the three weeds is preventing growth in your life?
 4. How can you learn to be more content with what God has blessed you with?
 5. What are blessings that you believe you can multiply for God?
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