
Becoming Fruitful Disciples: Avoiding Greed (Part 1)

REVIEW: Becoming Fruitful Disciples: Developing Roots

Luke 8:13 But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

Ephesians 4:11-16

- Recognize God's Equippers (cp 2 Tim 4:1-4)
- Recognize Your Need of Being Equipped
- Recognize Our Starting Point ("children tossed to and fro")
- Recognize God's Intention for You and Your Local Assembly

Colossians 2:6-8 ⁶As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Learning the Truth (being taught well)
- Living the Truth (behaving what is taught)
- Discern Untruth (rejecting the world's "truth")

Core Understanding of Seed & Sower: Life Exists, But Maturity Does Not

(The issues addressed by the stony and weedy ground are issues believers face and which must be overcome for believers to be fruitful and mature.)

- **Phil 4:4-7** ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

PROBLEM: Cares (or Worry) Distract and Ruin Our Christian Walk

- **Matt 13:22** 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. (cp. Mark 4:9)
- **Luke 8:14** Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. (cf. Luke 21:34)
 - Keep us from growing spiritually mature
 - Keep us from producing eternal fruit

4 Areas in Which God Specifically Commands Us Not to Worry

1. **Do Not Worry About Provisions – Necessities** (Matt 6:25-33)
2. **Do Not Worry About Promotion – Recognition or Advancement** (1 Peter 5:5-8)
3. **Do Not Worry About Position – Situation or Circumstances** (1 Cor 7:20-21)
4. **Do Not Worry About Persecution** (Luke 12:11-12)

God's Instruction on How to Handle Worry

1. **Put God's Work and Ways First** (Matt 6:22-33)
2. **Prompt Yourself About God's Care for You** (1 Pet 5:7)
3. **Pray Instead of Worry – Give Everything to God** (Phil 4:4-8)
4. **Point Your Care Toward Others** (1 Cor 12:24-25)
5. **Prioritize Worship Before Work** (Luke 10:38-42)

Luke 8:14 "Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity."

The Definition of Greed (Covetousness)

- ***the obsession with accumulating money and/or material goods***
 - 1 Tim 3:3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; (ἀφιλάργυρον)
 - 1 Tim 3:8 Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, (μη ἀισχροκερδεῖς) – same in Titus 1:7
- ***valuing & pursuing material goods more than valuing & pursuing God***
 - 2 Tim 3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

The Dangers of Greed (Covetousness)

1. Riches Are Deceitful

Matt 13:22 "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. (Mark 4:19)

2. Loving Riches Leads Us in Many Wrong Ways

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (φιλαργυρία)

3. Riches Can Make Us Think We Can Live Without God

Luke 18:18-25 ²³But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. ²⁴And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Mt 19:23-24; Mk 10:25)
Rev 3:17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--

4. Riches Can Cause Us to Focus On Riches and Not Upon God

Luke 12:15-21 "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Luke 16:19-31 – Rich Man and Lazarus

Col 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

5. Riches Can Cause Us to Treat People According to Their Wealth

Luke 14:12 Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid.

James 2:1-4