

**Learning to Follow God Rather than Living By Worry:
Choosing to Rest in the Goodness of God**
Matt 13:22; Mark 4:18-19; Luke 8:14

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 4:18-19 "Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹ "and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."

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."

Overview of the Thorny Ground Explanations in the Parallel Passages:

1. The _____ – hears the word [and grows...]
2. The _____ – choked by 2 or 3 “thorns”
3. The _____ –
 - The _____ is being choked (Matt/Mark)
 - The _____ is becoming unfruitful (Matt/Mark)
 - This _____ is being choked (Luke)
 - This believer is producing no _____ fruit (Luke)

The Core Concept for Soils #2 (stony) and #3 (thorny) of this Parable:

_____ Exists, but Maturity or Fruitfulness Do Not
(The issues addressed by the stony and weedy ground are issues **believers** face and which believers overcome to be rooted & fruitful.)

Phil 4:4-7 ⁶ Be anxious for nothing...and the peace of God...

2 Pet 3:18a but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior...

The 3-Fold Problem that Is Caused by these Thorns:

1. They divert our _____ from the Word
2. They become our _____ for living
3. They prevent our _____ to the Word

5 Areas in Which God Specifically _____ Us Not to Worry

1. Do Not Worry About _____ – Necessities

Matt 6:25-33 ²⁵ "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁸ So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (cp. Luke 12:22-32)

2. Do Not Worry About _____ – Recognition

1 Pet 5:5-8 ⁵ Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

3. Do Not Worry About _____ – Situation

1 Cor 7:20-21 Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. Were you called *while* a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it.

4. Do Not Worry About _____ – Responding

Luke 12:11-12 "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. ¹² "For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (cp Matt 10:17-20)

5. Do Not Worry About _____ – Difficulties

Phil. 4:4-9 ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things. ⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

- **Prioritize _____ Over Work**
- **Point Your Care Towards _____**