

## Learning to Follow God Rather than Living for Money:

### Choosing to Be Content in the Riches 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, <sup>19</sup> "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."

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

*Life 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 <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing...and the peace of God...

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

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

#### Overview of the Thorny Ground Explanations in the Parallel Passages:

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

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

1. *They divert our focus from the Word*
2. *They become our compass for living*
3. *They prevent our obedience to the Word*

#### 5 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* (1 Pet 5:5-8)
3. *Do Not Worry About Position – Situation* (1 Cor 7:20-21)
4. *Do Not Worry About Persecution – Responding* (Luke 12:11-12)
5. *Do Not Worry About Pressures – Any Difficulties* (Phil 4:4-9)
  - *Prioritize Worship Over Work*
  - *Point Your Care Towards Others*

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## How Can Riches Choke Us?

*Riches (Money): Any action or decision that can pursue money, or any money or possession gained itself.*

### 1. The Pursuit of Money Can \_\_\_\_\_ Us to Evil and Its Results

1 Tim 6:9-10 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. <sup>10</sup> 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.

### 2. The Pursuit of Money Can \_\_\_\_\_ Us and Become Our God

Matt 6:24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

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

### 3. The Pursuit of Money Can \_\_\_\_\_ Our Entire Life Chasing Empty Promises

Prov 27:20 Hell (sheol) and Destruction (abaddon) are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Matt 16:14-28

## Quick Principles to Avoid Being Led by the Pursuit of Money

### 1. Seek to Focus on What Is More \_\_\_\_\_ than Money

Col 3:1-6 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Proverbs “better is”

### 2. Seek Godly \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s Riches

1 Tim 6:6-8 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain<sup>1</sup> we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup> And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. “Riches”

### 3. Seek to \_\_\_\_\_ in God and Not in Riches

1 Tim 6:17-18 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

1 John 2:15-16

### 4. Seek to Be Rich in \_\_\_\_\_

1 Tim 6:18a *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works...

### 5. Seek to \_\_\_\_\_ Rather than to Obtain

1 Tim 6:18b ... ready to give, willing to share,

### 6. Seek to Store Up \_\_\_\_\_ Treasures in Heaven

1 Tim 6:19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Heb 11:26-28

1 John 2:17