
Becoming Fruitful Disciples: Avoiding Greed (Part 2)

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. (cp. Col 2:6-8; Phil 4:6-8)

Becoming Fruitful Disciples: By 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.

Eph 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

Col 2:6-8 As 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")

Becoming Fruitful Disciples: By Eliminating Worry

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)

Becoming Fruitful Disciples: By Avoiding Greed (Covetousness)

The Definition and Danger of Greed (Covetousness)

The DEFINITION of Greed (Covetousness)

- the obsession with accumulating money and/or material goods (1 Tim 3:3; 3:8; Titus 1:7)
- the valuing & pursuing material goods more than valuing & pursuing God (2 Tim 3:2)

The DANGERS of Greed (Covetousness)

1. *Riches Are Deceitful* (Matt 13:22; Mark 4:19; Lu 8:14)
2. *Loving Riches Leads Us in Many Wrong Ways* (1 Tim 6:10)
3. *Riches Can Make Us Think We Can Live Without God* (Luk 18:18-25; Rev 3:17)
4. *Riches Can Cause Us to Focus On Riches and Not Upon God* (Lu 12:15-21; 16:19-31; Col 3:5)
5. *Riches Can Cause Us to Treat People According to Their Wealth* (Lu 14:12; James 2:1-4)

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.

What GOD Says Is BETTER Than Money & Possessions (Proverbs)

1. **The Fear of the Lord Is Better than Money & Possessions**
15:16 – Better [is] a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble.
2. **A Peaceful Home Is Better than Money & Possessions**
17:1 – Better [is] a dry morsel with quietness, Than a house full of feasting [with] strife.
27:9 – Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
27:19 – Better to dwell in the wilderness, Than with a contentious and angry woman.
25:24 – [It is] better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
3. **Love Is Better than Money & Possessions**
15:17 – Better [is] a dinner of herbs where love is, Than a fatted calf with hatred.
4. **Humility Is Better than Money & Possessions**
5. 12:9 – Better [is the one] who is slighted but has a servant, Than he who honors himself but lacks bread.
16:19 – Better [to be] of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.
6. **Integrity Is Better than Money & Possessions**
19:1 – Better [is] the poor who walks in his integrity Than [one who is] perverse in his lips, and is a fool.
28:6 – Better [is] the poor who walks in his integrity Than one perverse [in his] ways, though he [be] rich.
7. **Righteousness Is Better than Money & Possessions**
16:8 – Better [is] a little with righteousness, Than vast revenues without justice.
8. **Truthfulness Is Better than Money & Possessions**
19:22 – What is desired in a man is kindness, And a poor man is better than a liar.
9. **Wisdom Is Better than Money & Possessions**
3:14 – For her {wisdom's} proceeds [are] better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.
8:11 – For wisdom [is] better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.
8:19 – My fruit [is] better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver.
16:16 – How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.