



WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

The Parables of Jesus, Part 2

Thorns: The Cares of this World

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, November 7, 2021

Text: Mat 13:7, Mark 4:18,19, Luke 8:11, 14

Opening Summary:

The cares of the world are thorns that choke the Word out of your heart. When you recognize what the devil does to take the Word, you can resist him and then move forward in obeying God. When you obey the Father, you are causing your heart to be good ground. In this lesson, you will learn how to make the seed go deep into your heart and how to water the seed so that it takes root and becomes fruitful, so that the cares of this world don't distract you.

- I. How do you get depth and how do you water the seed?
 - A. You must prepare the ground. Prepare your heart to receive the Word.
 1. Pray before you go to church. Pray for the minister.
 2. Adjust your attitude to receive that Word.
 - B. Speak the Word. Read the Scripture out loud.
 - C. Meditate the Word. Mutter, speak it, constantly think on the Word (Psa. 1:1-3).
- II. The seed is the Word of God (Luke 8:11; Rom 1:16; Mat 13:4 seeds)!
- III. *Care* (Gk.: merimna) means *distraction, anxiety, concern* (Luke 8:11-14).
- IV. *Careth* (Gk.: melo) also means *to be of interest to* as is the case in 1 Pet 5:7.
- V. Luke 8:7: Thorns sprang up along with the seed.
 - A. Mark 4:15 says satan comes immediately.
 - B. Satan even uses this tool against great men of God like the Apostle Paul.
 - C. Daily, the cares come so that they won't produce fruit (2 Cor. 11:28).
 - D. Pray for your preacher, that the Word is not choked (Eph. 6:18,19; Mat 13:7).
 1. Utterance (Gk.: logos) means the sum of the Word.
 2. There is always a force trying to keep a minister from speaking.
 3. Pray that he can say everything God wants said for your life.

- VI. The thorns are satanic orchestrated distractions (Luke 8:14).
- A. *Cares* are worrying about or pursuing more money (delusions) and getting what you want or think you must have to live your best life, forgetting that your best life is eternal life in heaven through Jesus Christ (Mark 4:19).
 - B. Satan will try to distract you with money: anxiety or concern that you won't have enough to get what you want.
- VII. Mat 13:21: Satan will attempt to distract you with a time (kairos: opportunity, season, short while) of temptation.
- A. Luke 8:13: Satan uses affliction and persecution to cause a financial problem, to remove from you what you desire, all in the hopes of getting you to be offended (Mat. 13:21): tripped up, stumble, enticed to sin, walk away from God.
 - B. This time it says he became unfruitful (Mat. 13:22). He was knocked out.
 - C. *Cares of this world* refer to *care about what people think* (Mark 4:19).
 - D. Satan uses *caring about what people* think to stop your spiritual growth.
- VIII. Temptation (Gk.: peirasmos) means adversity (1 Cor 10:13).
- A. Satan can only tempt you with what you see, feel, touch, taste or hear.
 - B. "*Will with*" means *when the thorns came up, the Word came up with it*.
 - C. *Escape* means *exit*. God already made an exit strategy for you.
 - D. You must get before Him to find your exit strategy.
- IX. Mighty means powerful, capable through God (2 Cor 10:3-6).
- A. A strong hold is a fortified place satan has set up in your life.
 - B. Imaginations are human reasonings. That's trying to figure it out with our head.
 - C. This trial didn't come to make you strong; it came to whip you.
 - D. "*Imaginations*" means *your reasoning or manipulating the situation to make it work*.
 - E. Thought means perception. Perception is not necessarily reality (1 John 2:20).
 - F. *Revenge* (Gk.: ekdikeo) means *vindicate, retaliate, punish*.
 - G. *Disobedience* (Gk.: parakoe) means *inattention: that to which you did not pay attention*. (seeking what we want or think we need)
 - H. When your *submission* is finished. You must obey God.
 - I. Your first weapon against the enemy is resubmit to God and refuse offense.
 - J. Ask God where you missed it so you can close the door to the enemy.
 - K. Satan can trap us because of fear that we can't get what we want (Jas. 1:12-15).
 - L. Satan uses thorns to choke the Word and you become non-productive. Three out of four people were non-productive. Which one of the four are you?

- X. God doesn't change. He is *always* with you (James 1:16-21; Psalm 118:6)
- A. Both fear and faith have five elements: Hear, receive, believe, speak and act.
 - B. The power of faith works on your behalf to give you what you desire.
 - C. The power of fear works on your behalf to give you what you don't desire.
- XI. Demas was more concerned about the world than the mission (2 Tim 4:10).
- XII. We are not to allow the world's system to dictate our lives (1 John 2:15-17).
- XIII. **Important:** Pride can extend to not letting others know you are in a faith battle for fear that they will think you're not spiritual (Jas 5:16). Tests and trials come to everybody.
- A. That happened with one of my pastors. His wife called me and said he's at the point of death. I didn't even know he had been attacked. He died before I could get to him. I later learned that he didn't want me to know because he was concerned that I would take the church from Him. But I would have acted on James 5:16, put someone in his church while he recovers. But pride will cause you to make bad decisions.
 - B. If I were diagnosed with something severe, I would ask you to pray for me.
 - C. Don't let pride keep you from telling others you're challenged!!
 - D. Surfeiting means drunkenness, anything that negatively affects your mind. You're not automatically accounted worthy (Luke 21:34-36).
- XIV. Abide means to live, settle down, take up residence (John 15:1-8).

Closing Summary

God wants you to be a 100-fold Christian. Don't allow the cares of this world (thorns) to dominate you. Rather, allow God's Word to dominate your life. You can't be moved by public opinion. Stand your ground. God has a way for you to escape the effects of the adversary. But you must do your job. Help the church and the saints (Christians); witness to the lost; give tithes and offerings; be the example for the world. Barring those with legitimate reasons, it's time to get back to church. Don't be in fear and don't be lukewarm (Rev. 3:16). Get on fire for God.