I. Matthew 13 - 7 parables about the Kingdom of Heaven
   A. V10-11 - Mysteries of the kingdom of heaven
      1. Kingdom of Heaven - The foundational, principal component of heaven; the system or culture of heaven
   B. Kingdom Culture
      1. Culture - Webster - The set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices of a society, institution or organization.

II. Matt 13:3-9
   A. V3 - Sow - spĕirō - To place or scatter seeds in ground for future growth
   B. V7 - Some fell among the thorns
      1. Thorns - akantha - A thorny plant; worthless weed, something unpleasant to be avoided
      2. Some fell “Among” thorns
         a) Among - ēpi - A position within an area “determined” by other objects and distributed among them
      3. Sprang up - anabainō - Increase in size by natural process; grow up, arise
      4. Choked - apŏpnigō - To cause the death of plants by other plants crowding them out, overwhelm or overshadowing them, to inhibit the action, function or development of something.
   C. V22 - “Thorns” that will choke the Word of God - Three “categories”:
      1. Cares of this world
         a) Cares - mĕrimna - Concerned, anxious, worried, nervous
         b) World - aiōn - An age; unit of time or era; world system
            (1) Cares - root word means to divide, disunite
            (2) James 1:5–8 (NKJV) - Double-minded man, unstable in all his ways
      2. Deceitfulness of Riches
         a) Riches - plŏutŏs - Wealth, money, possessions; root word to fill, furnish or fulfill
         b) Deceitfulness - apatē - Delusion, cheat, deceive or cause to have misleading or erroneous views about the truth
         c) 1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV) 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.
            (1) Love - philarguria - Extreme love for money or wealth
d) **Part of the curse**
   (1) **Genesis 3:17–18 (NKJV)** 17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: *Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.* 18 **Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,** And you shall eat the herb of the field.”

e) **Matthew 4:4** (NKJV) 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

3. **Desires for other things - Mark 4:18-19**
   a) **Desires** - ἐπιθυμία - Deep desire, longing, craving; A self-indulgent craving that displaces proper affection for God.
      (1) **Psalm 27:4** (NKJV) 4 **One thing** I have **desired** of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.
   b) **Entering in** - ἐσπορέωμαι - To enter, go into, of things, as food

D. **Thorns cause us to “become” unfruitful**
   1. **Unfruitful** - ἀκάρπος - Barren, producing no fruit or harvest
   2. **Hebrews 4:2** (NKJV) 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.