

Sermon Notes

Soil & Seed – The Keys to the Kingdom - Thorns That Choke The Word

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Characteristics of the Seed

Seed = Jesus / Word of God

1. The seed is in itself
 - Everything I need is in the SEED!!
 2. Seed produces according to its own kind
 - Kind – *mîyn* – Category, class, species, type; things distinguished by some common characteristic or quality
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Mark 4:1–9 (NKJV)

And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:

“Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Mark 4:13–15 (NKJV)

And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is

sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.”

- Sow – *speirō* – To scatter seed in or on the ground for future growth. Action taken now for a benefit to be experienced later.
 - **Sowing** – Planting the Word of God into our heart by reading, listening, speaking, and meditating it.
 - Word – *logos* – What is preached, or said about the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - Wayside – *hodos* – Road, highway, street, thoroughfare; busy place with traffic; hard ground
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Mark 4:16–17 (NKJV)

“These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.”

- Stony ground – *petrodēs* – A rocky substance or bedrock covered by a thin layer of earth

Charles Spurgeon:

“Then there are many more, whose religion must be sustained by enthusiastic surroundings.... the religion that is born of mere excitement will die when the excitement is over.”

Root provides:

1. Stability
 2. Sustenance
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Mark 4:18–19 (NKJV)

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 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.”

- Entering in – *eisporeuomai* – To move, come, or go into

- Choke – *sumpnigō* – To strangle, suffocate, to oppress or overwhelm; cut off air supply, our breath (*pneuma* – spirit)
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Thorns

1. Cares of this world
2. Deceitfulness of riches
3. Desires for other things

Impact of thorns: Keep us from doing what we are supposed to do and becoming who we are supposed to become.

1. Cares of this World

- *Cares* – *merimna* – Anxiety, worry, concern, apprehension, distress
- *This World* – *aiōn* – Age; era, world's system

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- *Anxious* – *merimnaō* – To be worried about, care, troubled

1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)

“Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

- *Casting* – To put or throw on forcefully; to put responsibility on

Throw your worries and cares onto Jesus. Trust Him with the provision.

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

- *Casting down* – *kathaireō* – Demolish, refute; the destruction of an argument

2. Deceitfulness of Riches

- *Deceitfulness* – *apatē* – Misleading, delusion, deception, cause to believe a lie
- *Riches* – *ploutos* – Wealth, abundance of possessions and resources

Luke 18:18–27 (NKJV)

(*Rich young ruler*) – He was sorrowful because he was very rich.

- Sorrowful – *perilupos* – Crushed by grief, extremely sad

1 Timothy 6:17–19 (NKJV)

“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. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

Proverbs 3:9–10 (NKJV)

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

3. Desires for Other Things

- *Desires* – *epithumia* – Longing, craving, lusts, self-indulgent yearning

1 Timothy 6:6–10 (NKJV)

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 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. 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.”

Luke 10:41–42 (NKJV)

“And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’”

Matthew 6:32–33 (NKJV)

“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Mark 4:19 (NKJV)

“...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.”

- Becomes – *ginomai* – Cause to be; come to exist, enter or assume a state or condition
 - Unfruitful – *akarpōs* – Barren, yielding no fruit; no beneficial use, incapable of functioning usefully
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Mark 4:20 (NKJV)

“But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

- Accept – *paradechomai* – To receive near; to come to believe something to be true and to respond accordingly
- Bear fruit – *karpophoreō* – To be fertile, produce results