

"WEEKLY WISDOM"  
By Pastor Darryl Baker

For The Week of 06.28.10

"HOW GOD'S WORD WORKS - PART #4"

Mark 4:20 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."

God's Word will always produce the abundant life that God has for us if we learn how His Word works. His Word grown up in us will also help us to face the challenges of the day and come out victorious. We simply need to learn from this parable how to receive God's Word in good ground and watch it produce. As we enter week four of our study we have already talked about the sower, the seed, wayside soil, and stony ground. This week we will cover the third type of soil or heart condition that Jesus describes in the parable of the sower which is thorny ground. This area affects many more than they realize as we will see here in our study. The reason we need to understand these different conditions of the heart is so that we can be good ground for God's Word. Without good ground to sow His seed in, it won't produce.

Mark 4:18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word,  
Mark 4:19 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.

This fourth type of soil is referred to by Jesus as a bramble bush. This is the definition you find for the word "thorns" that is used here. I think it is interesting that Jesus would refer to this type of bush in talking about thorny ground. The bramble bush has recurved thorns. When you try to pull away from the bush these thorns dig in further. It is also noted that snakes like to nest in bramble bushes of which I have seen pictures of this. Quite revealing and certainly understandable that Jesus would use this example as He then defines what these thorns are. They are cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things. These entering in choke the word of God and it becomes unfruitful.

How hard is it for people to pull away from these three things. The more they do it seems the harder it is for them to get free from them. Just like the recurved thorns on the bramble, they just dig in further doing what they can to not let you go. Interesting also is the fact that the bramble produces an eatable type of fruit. Quite enticing but remember what also will nest in the bramble, snakes. This is a lot like Satan and how he uses the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for

other things to lure people in closer. All the while he is just waiting to strike and inflict his venom.

Let's look at the first of these three thorns, the cares of this life. This is defined as anxiety about life in the natural, brought on by becoming distracted. The real deception here is found in basing your self worth on what you do, and thus also relating to what others do or don't do. When things don't go your way you begin to take on the cares of this world. You become distracted by bills that are not paid, or problems within your relationships, or dissatisfaction in the things you are doing such as the job you have. These cares begin to creep in and choke the very life of God's Word within you heart. How can we live free from the cares of this life? The apostle Paul gives us some help on the subject.

Phil. 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Phil. 4:7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Take a moment and read back over these two verses from Philippians four. Will this actually work? Of course it will because it is God's Word. How come so many believers are as anxious (filled with the cares of life) as those who don't know Jesus? We must either not be doing what Paul said here or we don't understand what was said. In EVERYTHING by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. If we do what this is actually saying we will shed the cares of life and walk in the peace of God. The key here is whatever we are facing we need to have the type of relationship with God that we take everything to Him in prayer, not just as a request, but intimately relating to Him. As we do we should be filled with thanksgiving for all God has done for us. In His presence is fullness of joy. So it all comes down to our relationship with God.

Psa. 49:6 Those who trust in their wealth

And boast in the multitude of their riches,

Psa. 49:7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother,

Nor give to God a ransom for him—

Psa. 49:8 For the redemption of their souls is costly,

And it shall cease forever—

Psa. 49:9 That he should continue to live eternally,

And not see the Pit.

The second thing Jesus spoke of was the deceitfulness of riches. This refers to those who think that money is the answer to their problems. But as the Psalmist notes money can't redeem your soul. Money can't heal you from incurable diseases. The Bible is clear that God desires for us to prosper, but when we think money is the answer to what we need it will not provide for you what only God can. Money will not make you

complete, but Jesus can, and when He blesses you the Bible says He adds no sorrow with it.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Last but not least Jesus warns that thorns also refer to the desire for other things. As John tells us here in the above verse of scripture we are not to love the world, or the THINGS in the world. For those who do the love of the Father is not in them. The better translation here is love for the Father is not in them because their love (affection) is set on things. If you don't guard yourself against this it isn't very hard for "things" to become more important to you than God. Then He takes a back seat to whatever is more important to you. You must remember that there is no inanimate object that is going to bring fulfillment in your life. Like the bramble bush the fruit may look good, but if you desire things more than God they will get their hooks in you and choke out the Word of God. God is not against us having things, but they should not have us. This is seen in many people's lives where the Lord's Day is not as important as going to play with their toys.

The deception in all three of these things is in trying to satisfy your life with something other than God. There is no relationship with any human, nor any amount of money, nor any amount of things that are going to complete your life. Only God can truly complete you. In America especially it is easy to allow any of these thorns to grow up in your life. The enticement is great and initially like partaking of the fruit of the bramble bush seems quite fulfilling, but the enemy is simply trying to get his hooks or venom in us so that we will not see God's Word work in our lives. Realize there is again nothing wrong with having the kind of relationships God desires for us, nor is there anything wrong with being blessed financially, or having nice things. But when these become our source of contentment we will always be left empty for they will keep the life fulfilling Word of God from growing up in us.

Luke 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

Luke 10:40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

Luke 10:41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

Luke 10:42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

The best way to not become thorny ground is to never allow yourself to get distracted from developing your relationship with the Lord. For if we do so we will begin to see these other things lead us astray. Like Martha here she became distracted from sitting at the feet of Jesus. This

distraction caused her to get caught up trying to find fulfillment in what she did. But Jesus said that those like Mary who make their relationship with God a priority and won't allow anything to draw them away from Jesus being their first love, they will not have that taken from them.

If Jesus is not your first love do what He told the church of Ephesus in Revelation chapter two. Remember from where you have fallen, then go back to doing the first works. When you first received Christ you should have been so hungry to get to know the Lord that He was the desire of your heart. Church and the things of God should have been something you had a strong desire for. Go back to doing those things that you first did when coming to the Lord and you can once again see Jesus become your first love.

See You Again Next Week For More  
"WEEKLY WISDOM"

**MAY GOD'S VERY BEST BE YOURS!**  
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