

## Sowing Among The Thorns

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Mark 4:3, 7, 18-19** "Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."

Once again let us look at the parable of the sower. In this portion the Lord talks of the seed that fell among the thorns. He didn't say that the ground was bad, or even filled with stones, but that it did have thorns. The thorns could and did grow in the same ground. As we know in life weeds, thorns and other such things will grow where good things will not. Then, if you plant a good plant, the thorns will try to choke out the good plants. In nature we see that plants, both bad and good, compete for the sunlight, water, and space to grow. It is the same in the spiritual realm.

This seed among the thorns show a seed taking root and growing, at least for awhile. If not for the thorns it could grown and become a healthy, productive plant. The problem is that the thorns took root as well. The Lord talked about how the thorns choked the plant, the word, and it died out. It stood there but produced no fruit. If you have a garden you know that you must keep the weeds and bugs out. Also it has to have sufficient water and sunlight to grow and to produce the desired crop.

The spiritual life is the same. The weeds, or thorns, will come in and try to take a person's time and effort. They may not be some great sin, in and of itself, but if they are allowed to take the time and effort that is needed to grow and learn about God, then they effectively choke out the spiritual life. People will say, "I don't have the time to read the bible, or I don't know much about the will of God." Why not? Anyone can find a few minutes in a day to read, pray, and to seek the Lord if they want too.

Making a living is needful and if we have a job it does take time and effort. At the same time we still belong to God and are to serve him. That is what we promised to do when we make a declaration of faith and

became a Christian. Some who seem to be choked spend too much time being entertained by the things of this world. Computer, face book, and TV are only a few of the things that take up a lot of time but don't help us to grow as Christian.

A few days ago my youngest grandson asked about a vine that was wrapped around my tomatoes. He thought it was pretty and seemed to like it until I told him it was a Morning Glory and that it hurt good plants. He changed his mind and said, "Well, we don't want them then." In the same way a spiritual thorn, or vine, can look nice and be desirable in a way but be hurtful to us as we try to live for the Lord.

Isn't it time for us to take a look at our lives and to remove the thorns that choke our service for the Lord? We all have things that we like to do and they can be alright in the right time and place. The thing is to not let them take us away from the Lord. Yes, the weeds in our life may be some sin, or it may be something like, work, money, pleasure, or something else that just robs us of time that we need to give to the Lord. **2 Corinthians 13:5**, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

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THIS SHOULD KEEP THE OTHER SHEEP AWAY FROM OURS!

A GOOD IDEA! I WILL HELP THEE!



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