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MINISTRIES

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Tangled

Luke 8:5-8

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Here we see 4 areas where the seed was sown.

- 1.) Along the path
- 2.) Among the rock
- 3.) Among the thorns
- 4.) And the good soil

The focus of this teaching will be on the seed that was sown among the thorns.

Let us cut to the chase and look at the meaning that Yeshua gave us to this verse specific to the seed among the thorns...

Luke 8:14

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

“those who hear”

So, what does that mean?

The Greek word for “hear” ἀκούω/santeß - akousantes means “to hear, to heed, to obey”

So they hear and understand the word of God. And even begin the journey of obedience to the Word of God. But the weeds of life come in and choke it.

We must understand that this is a process. Weeds don't instantly appear. They can definitely grow fast, but they still have to grow, though.

But what are the weeds of life? Life's worries, riches and pleasures.

So what about you? Are you pursuing obedience to God's Word? If so, where do you stand with life's worries, riches and pleasures?

This is serious. A substantial amount of the seeds that were planted are considered worthless as a result of all these three things.

So... heart check. Remember... You need to be honest here. You can deceive those around you, but you'll never deceive the Father.

Do you struggle with worry? Even just a little? Do you have to be in control? Can you trust God in all circumstances? The need to be in control can be a problem. Think about that for a moment.

What about riches? You don't have to have money for money to have you.

Riches do not have to be money. It can be as simple as just owning things.

Keeping up with the neighbor next door. Or even trying to get ahead of others and being overly focused on staying that way. They are all potential obstacles.

The second you see that someone has something do you say that you HAVE to have that? Or maybe one that is even better? Think about all of those iPhone versions. Do you have shiny object syndrome where you just HAVE to have the latest and greatest of everything?

Do you feel you "deserve" a certain thing more than someone else, no matter what the reason might be?

Many say they don't have to have things to make them happy, but they're actions and attitudes say very different things. Does always having the "best" of things drive you. Do they make you feel better?

What about the pleasures of life. Everyone pursues different pleasures. They can be different foods, habits, hobbies, addictions, you name it.

What's yours? Can you control your lust after these pleasures? Or are they controlling you? Really consider that for a moment. Are you controlling your lusts? Or are they controlling you?

Do you fall prey to every temptation or can you stand fast under the pressure? Pleasure is SO temporary and focused on the moment.

In fact, all three (riches, worries, and pleasures) are temporary and focused on yourself if you think about it.

Matthew 6:27

Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

And the thing you are worrying about today will eventually be gone and then a new situation will arise.

Once you get the latest “thing” that you want, there will be another one to come. And then another. And then still more. It never ends.

Just because you are pursuing the Truth doesn't mean that these things are not choking your personal life or your spiritual life. These things can stall your walk with the Father, slowing down growth and maturity in the faith.

We all need to be honest with ourselves about all of this stuff. Consider the words of Paul.

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Consider what our Messiah said.

Luke 8:14

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are **choked** by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and **they do not mature**.

How many of us read the Scriptures with the perspective that we're okay, automatically believing that we're the good soil? We need to examine ourselves daily.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus [Yeshua the Messiah] is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

We pray that as we all pursue after the Father, we do not allow ourselves to get tangled up in life's worries, riches, or pleasures, letting them choke our maturity in Him. Don't give these things the opportunity to become what keeps you from drawing near to Him.

Remember:

Matthew 6:31-34

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

And

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Instead of letting the weeds of life tangle you up,

James 4:8a

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

We pray that you have been blessed by this message.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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