



BIBLE TALK

Mike King

Question: What are the “thorns” of Mark 4:7?

Answer: This parable of the sower in Mark 4 is a profound story about life...real life, yours and mine. It boils life down to four basic responses people give toward spiritual matters. The “seed” is God’s truths of the Bible. The different “souls” represent people of all ages and backgrounds who respond to the things of the Lord in various ways. Some listen then immediately reject it. Others hear and seem to enjoy it and even respond well on the surface, but they spin off when their bubble bursts and the going gets rough. Still others take hold and initially embrace what they hear, but by and by they get side-tracked as their growth is throttled by life’s “thorns.” There are always those who hear, believe, grow, hang in there, and before long begin to reproduce as healthy plants in God’s vineyard.

The first two groups are rootless, lifeless, and fruitless. The last group is saved, submissive, active and productive. This third group about which the question is referring, gets right to the verge of bearing fruit, but becomes retarded, suffocated, and finally smothered. It seems as if the thorns were there when the seeds were sown, but out of determination grew for a brief time, then withered (Mk. 4:7).

Jesus gave the answer to the question. He said they represent (1) “*the worries of the world,*” (2) “*the deceitfulness of riches,*” and (3) “*the desire for other things*” (Mk. 4:19). When the thorns enter, spiritual growth ends. The thorns are more than harmful, they are deadly! Does the problem rest in the fact that we have a quiet, respectable, secret love for the above? These influences paint a picture in 3-D; disturbance, deception and discontentment. The thorns inject a powerful anesthesia and leave the entangled powerless, eventually lifeless. Just make sure that we do not become entangled!

For inquiries or free Bible study by mail, contact:
New Albany Church of Christ
P.O. Box 148, 511 Hwy 15 S ~ New Albany, MS 38652
nacoc.us ~ 662-534-4649 ~ bibletalk.mlk@gmail.com