

Parable of the Sower

Lesson 2

Jeremiah 29:10-14; Mark 4:7, 18-19; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

July 23, 2023

Thorny Ground Part 1

INTRODUCTION

Jesus frequently taught his disciples with parables, which are stories that share the truth of God's plan and purpose for us in a way that will keep us thinking. This week our lesson is about one of these parables, the Parable of the four soils. The soils represent the four different ways we respond to God's Word. We will look at seeds that fall among the thorns causing, among many things, a life of worry. Our lesson will help us to see the "thorns" in our life but also God's way to deal with those worrisome times.

***Memory verse: "Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain."
— Mark 4:7***

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. What are God's plans? (Jeremiah 29:11)
2. How does one find God? (Jeremiah 29:13)
3. What did thorns do to the plants? (Mark 4:7)
4. What happens to the Word when people are like "seed sown among thorns"? (Mark 4:18-19)
5. How is God faithful? (1 Corinthians 10:13)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Mark 4:19 states that thorns choke the Word. How does this happen, and what may be the result? (Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14, 12:29-31; 1 John 2:15-17)
2. When the thorns around us are working to cause anxiety and discouragement, what guidance does the Bible provide? (Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7)
3. When we face temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13), how is God faithful? (Ephesians 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:2-3; 1 Peter 5:8-10)
4. Jeremiah 29:10-14 shows how God promises to prosper the captives in Babylon and give them hope and a future. How should we respond to God's promises? (Romans 1:16-17, 12:12; Hebrews 11:1)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. The best way to learn how we should deal with the “thorns of life” is to take a look at someone that had them all around her. This woman had every reason to worry; she was powerless, abused and used, single with a child, was considered lower class, and really had no resources of her own. Her name was Hagar. Read Genesis 16 and 21:1-21.
 - A. From these passages, what do you learn about Hagar and the many reasons she had for worry? Do you share any of these problems? Which ones?
 - B. How do you see God working from the beginning to alleviate her pain and suffering and set her on a path of peace? Have you seen God working in the same manner in your life? How?

C. Reread Genesis 16:13. Scripture has many names for God. One is El Roi, the God that sees. How do you think Hagar felt at that moment, knowing El Roi was intimately aware of her situation and giving her direction? What in your life do you want El Roi to see and guide you through?

2. Write a prayer of confession and petition asking El Roi to see and intervene to assist you with the thorns in your life.