



## Wednesday, August 15, 2012

## The Thorny Ground

## **MATTHEW 13:22**

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

- 1. The thorny ground differs from the <u>stony</u> ground in that it <u>welcomes</u> the seed: but it differs from the <u>good</u> ground in that it welcomes <u>everything else</u> as well.
  - -This is the Christian with no <u>discernment</u>, who is always saying, "I don't see anything <u>wrong</u> with this."
- 2. The thorns represent the <u>distractions</u> of this temporal world.
  - -The thorns include all of the temptations and sidetracks that hinder us when we live for <u>this life</u> and not for <u>eternity</u>. Hebrews 11:13-16.
  - -The Bible does not provide a "not-so-committed-to-Christ" version of Christianity.
- 3. The distractions of a "this life" Christianity begin with simple <u>demands</u> (*the care of this world*), and gradually become destructive <u>evils</u>. I Timothy 6:10.
  - -Every weed starts small.
- 4. The weeds of worldly care choke the Word of God.
- 5. When the Word of God is choked in your heart, it makes you <u>unfruitful</u>.
  - -The Spirit of God cannot produce fruit in you. Gal. 5:22-23.
  - -God cannot produce fruit through you. John 15:5