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Hearing The Preached Word (part 3)

Matthew 13:7, "And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:"

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."

Thus far, in this parable told by the Lord, we have read about a sower (preacher of the gospel) who went forth to sow and had some seed fall by the wayside (unprepared hearer), and some seed that fell on stony places (temporary hearer). The Lord then teaches us that "some fell among the thorns" and the seed which fell there was "choked" by the thorns. According to the Lord, in verse 22, the thorny ground represents the child of God who allows his/her "care of the world" to choke out the word they received, causing them to be unfruitful (obedience to the word preached). This ground could then be referred to as a worldly hearer. An illustration (not exclusive) of this hearer would be one who's mind is so consumed with the things of this world that they are not able to give attention to the word of God. They may be one who sits on the pew on Sunday morning and are unable to lay aside their thoughts of work, business, sports or other tasks and responsibilities to give their attention to the instruction of the gospel of Christ. Those cares (thorns) will then "choke" out the word as thorns would choke out the seed planted, prohibiting growth and fruitfulness.

When growing up in North East Georgia my family would plant a garden (most times, many gardens) every year. My daddy would often give my brothers and I the responsibility and task of hoeing out the garden. We would take a hoe and go from plant to plant removing the weeds. This task was very important to the growth and yield of each particular plant. When I think back on those days (working in the garden), my mind is drawn to the lesson taught by the Lord here in Matthew 13. We too (hearers of the word), in a similar way as my brothers and I did then, need to hoe the weeds (cares of the world) from our lives that we could give attention to the words of Jesus so that we could be more fruitful in the Master's Service.