



Interested but distracted.

Mark 4:7, 18-19

Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain...¹⁸ And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word,¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

The Cluttered Heart

- Good seed fell into good soil but was suffocated – 4:7
Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.
 - Thorns grew up and choked it out.
 - Thorns use up the nutrients in the soil, so there's nothing left for the seed.
- Not resistant or hard-hearted.
- Not emotionally shallow.
- But massively overcommitted to lesser things – 4:18a
And others are the ones sown among thorns.
 - The thorns were already there.
 - What are the thorns? 4:19a *the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things*
 - What will thorns do if not checked? 4:19b *enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

A cluttered life of unaddressed distractions will eventually land one in the same place as hard-hearted atheism. Why? Both exclude the authority and presence of Jesus in one's

life. Atheism refuses to yield to Jesus, while a cluttered life is too “busy” to give serious consideration to Jesus. Either way, it’s a life and eternity without Jesus.

- 1) Cares of this world: Wrapped up in life.
- 2) Deceitfulness of riches: The promise of security through “enough.”

1 Timothy 6:6-10 *But godliness with contentment is great gain,⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

- 3) Desires for other things: Living for the new model.¹

Conclusion: The cluttered-hearted person didn’t backslide. They didn’t slide forward in the first place.

Steps to thorn-removal

- Repent and believe the Gospel.
- Prioritize the priorities.

Connect Card

¹ “The whole phrase would aptly capture the essence of materialism as ‘the constant desire for more.’” R. T. France, *The Gospel of Mark: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 2002), 206.