

CHOKED!

Lesson 16 – OUTLINE

- I. Now we come to the third type of person that heard God's Word, and how that person responded to it:

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Mark 4:18-19

- A. The third type is someone who has learned God's truths enough that they are excited about the Word and have meditated in it enough that it's beginning to take root.
- B. There's a real life and vibrancy coming out of them.
- C. The Word of God is starting to produce results in their life, but then they get occupied with the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things.
- II. Today we are being constantly bombarded, not only by news and the problems of this world, but also by all kinds of entertainment.
- A. We have an abundance of television, movies, and video games.
- B. Also, it seems that on the job, people are working harder than ever before.
- C. They are just pouring themselves into all this, and it will choke the Word of God.
- D. Busyness is not conducive to spirituality.
- E. Most are far too occupied with other things than God and His Word.
- III. If you squeeze just five or ten minutes in, trying to hear the Lord's voice and stay your mind on the things of God, but the rest of the day you are running around at a frantic pace, you aren't going to have the Word of God produce itself in your life.
- A. You have to be still and quiet yourself (Ps. 46:10).
- B. If I get really involved, busy, and going at a frantic pace, it takes a period of time for me to sit down, slow myself down, and get to where I can hear God from my heart.

- C. If I have been spending lots of time with the Lord and am very sensitive to Him, I could get occupied and busy with something for an hour but then step out of that and go right back into the spirit realm almost immediately.
 - D. Busyness with this natural world limits our perception of the spiritual world.
- IV. Even Jesus took down time (Mark 6:31).
- A. Yes, His goal was to reach people.
 - B. Yes, He desired to touch as many people's lives as He could.
 - C. Yet, after He and His disciples had been out on this missionary tour, He was telling them to come apart, rest awhile, and go over to this desert place.
- V. You need some time where you can separate yourself from all the busy activities of daily life and just spend time focused on God.
- A. Now, you don't necessarily have to have your nose buried in the Bible.
 - B. To a degree, you will because you can't meditate on scriptures that you don't know.
 - C. But if you've already been reading the Bible, you might be able to just go sit on the porch for a while and pray about what's been going on during that day.
 - D. You could meditate on the scriptures He's been giving you and ask Him to show you things.
- VI. Working your job and spending time with your family are good and right in their place, but it's not good if you cram so much into your life that you have very little or no time left for God and His Word.
- A. I wish I could somehow or another make people understand this because Satan is really using this to hinder people's personal growth.
 - B. He draws them into being so busy that they short-circuit God's provision for them to change.
 - C. They just get so preoccupied that they don't take the time to be in the Word and in fellowship with Him.
 - D. This hinders the change God wants to bring to pass.

- E. If I can become too preoccupied and busy with ministry—things that are good and that help other people—so that the Word of God is being choked and hindered in my life, what can happen in other people’s lives who are occupied with pursuing their careers and running their kids all over town all week long?

- VII. You may be one of these people who love God, place an importance on His Word, and want to see the fruit, but are so occupied with all kinds of “good” things that the seed of God’s Word is being choked out in your life.
 - A. If you’re not careful, these things will keep you from being productive.
 - B. They’re like weeds sprouting up all around the stalk of corn you planted.
 - C. The soil (your heart) only has so much nourishment for the seed (God’s Word).
 - D. Those weeds will suck much of the moisture and nutrients out of the soil, which will keep the seed that you want to grow from really producing and bearing fruit.

- VIII. Many people are cramming so much into their lives, and these things aren’t improving the quality of their lives.
 - A. That lifestyle needs to change.
 - B. Are you seeing the change in your life that you desire?
 - C. Are you bearing the fruit that you know God wants you to bear?
 - D. If not, I challenge you to start spending some quantity time just focused on the things of the Lord.
 - E. Perhaps you’ve already been spending time, and the Lord is drawing you deeper.
 - F. You just need to make a decision that you are going to start taking away all of these things that choke the Word of God in your life.

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Lesson 16 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 4:18-19. The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things _____ in.
2. What do these things choke?
 - A. The Word
 - B. The one who didn't pay me what he owed
 - C. The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
3. According to Psalm 46:10, what two things are you to do?
4. **"I will be exalted among the _____, I will be exalted in the earth."**
 - A. "Pagan"
 - B. "Jew"
 - C. "Gentile"
 - D. "Heathen"
 - E. "Follower"
5. Read Mark 6:31. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to come apart into a deserted place and rest awhile?

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Lesson 16 – SCRIPTURES

MARK 4:18-19

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

PSALM 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

MARK 6:31

And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.