

“Son” Flowers... A Devotional by the members of New Hope Church in Cooper, TX

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Scripture Verse Reference: Matthew 13:22 ***“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”*** (NKJV)

Thorns can be Costly

Not long ago, I picked up a small locust tree thorn in a tractor tire while helping a widow in our church. With the entire assembly weighing over three hundred pounds, I am no longer able to remove the tire and wheel, manually break the tire down, repair the tube, and put everything back together. A friend helped me find someone to come to the ranch and make the repair. The result, I was one hundred dollars poorer.



Thinking about this ordeal a few days later, I considered how even little thorns often show up in our lives and try robbing us of our joy. Often, our day doesn't go as planned, we find ourselves in a foul mood, or we become worried about some insignificant something. Little things can become big problems if we dwell on them. In reflecting on this, I thought of Matthew 13:22. When I don't stop at once and turn my problems over to God I too become “unfruitful”, focusing on the negatives in my life. Satan blinds me from seeing the positive aspects of being one of God's children, an heir to heaven.

I reminded myself how hard I work to keep the weeds out of my pasture. As spring approaches, the annual battle against mesquite, goat weed, and horned milkweed begins. I also remembered the two years spent getting rid of the locust trees from these same pastures. Even with the spraying, cultivating, and careful planning, weeds and thorns find their way into my pastures. God helped me see how I must apply the same diligence in my spiritual life.

Farming here in Texas is challenging; it's either too much rain, not enough rain, or too much heat. God seems to keep changing the conditions so I always have to rely on His provision in my life. I think He does it just to see how well I adapt to new challenges. Do I rely on Him or fall back into the worldly habits of my old self. Each trial He allows gives me the opportunity to rise to the new challenge. It is in the trials we face that we grow the most.

I pray you too invite the Holy Spirit to help you withstand the thorns in your life each day. Our walk with God can be undisturbed if we keep our focus on Him and His ways and not this thorn-filled world where we temporarily live.