

# Mark 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

Jesus identifies three thorns: '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.'

1. 'Cares of this world' (αἱ μέριμναι τοῦ αἰῶνος)—anxious worry about temporal concerns, legitimate needs becoming consuming preoccupations.
2. 'Deceitfulness of riches' (ἡ ἀπάτη τοῦ πλούτου)—wealth's deceptive promise of security and satisfaction it cannot deliver.
3. 'Lusts of other things' (αἱ περὶ τὰ λοιπὰ ἐπιθυμίαι)—desires for anything besides God.

The result: 'choke the word' (συμπνίγοντι τὸν λόγον), making it 'unfruitful' (ἄκαρπος)—producing no spiritual fruit.

## Historical Context

Jesus' three-fold diagnosis addresses universal human temptations transcending culture and era. Ancient world knew these thorns: anxiety about provision (Matthew 6:25-34), wealth's seduction (1 Timothy 6:9-10, 17-19), sensual indulgence (1 John 2:15-17). Early Christians practiced simplicity, shared resources, resisted materialism. Church history records wealth corrupting institutional church (medieval opulence, simony). Reformers and Puritans warned

against worldliness. Modern Western Christianity faces particular danger from materialism and consumerism—thorns choking fruitfulness while church attendance continues.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. Which thorn poses greatest danger to your spiritual fruitfulness—worry, wealth, or wandering desires?
2. How does materialism and consumerism function as thorns in contemporary Western Christianity?
3. What practical steps can you take to remove these thorns and cultivate fruitfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ αἱ μέριμναι τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου, καὶ ἡ  
And G3588 the cares G3588 world G165 of this G5127 And G3588  
G2532 G3308 G165 G5127 G2532

ἀπάτη τοῦ πλούτου καὶ αἱ περὶ τὰ λοιπὰ  
the deceitfulness G3588 of riches And G3588 of G3588 other things G3062  
G539 G4149 G2532 G4012 G3062

ἐπιθυμίαι εἰσπορευόμεναι συμπνίγουσιν τὸν λόγον καὶ  
the lusts entering in choke G3588 the word And G3056 G2532  
G1939 G1531 G4846 G3588 G3056 G2532

ἄκαρπος γίνεται  
unfruitful it becometh  
G175 G1096

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 6:17** (Parallel theme): Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

**Matthew 19:23** (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

**Philippians 4:6** (Parallel theme): Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

**John 15:2** (Parallel theme): Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

**Luke 21:34** (Parallel theme): And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

**Luke 10:41** (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

**Isaiah 5:2** (Parallel theme): And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

**Isaiah 5:4** (Parallel theme): What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

**2 Peter 1:8** (Parallel theme): For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ecclesiastes 4:8** (Parallel theme): There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

