

# Mark 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

## Analysis

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Other seed 'fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.' The seed germinates successfully, begins growing, but gets overwhelmed by competing vegetation. 'Choked' (συνέπνιξαν, synepnixan) means suffocated, strangled—aggressive thorns crowding out grain. The result: 'no fruit' (οὐκ ἔδωκεν καρπὸν)—complete failure despite initial promise. Jesus later explains thorns represent 'cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches, and lusts of other things' that choke the word, making it unfruitful (Mark 4:18-19). This describes professing believers whose faith is gradually suffocated by competing priorities and affections.

## Historical Context

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Thorns and thistles resulted from the fall curse (Genesis 3:18). Palestinian agriculture constantly battled invasive weeds with deep, extensive root systems that competed for water and nutrients. Even cleared fields quickly re-grew thorns from dormant seeds and surviving roots. The agricultural challenge illustrated spiritual reality: worldliness, materialism, and misplaced priorities choke spiritual vitality. Early church fathers warned against wealth's dangers; monastic movements sought to escape worldly distractions; Reformers emphasized simplicity and contentment. Every generation faces thorns threatening to choke fruitfulness.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What 'thorns'—worldly cares, materialism, competing loves—are choking your spiritual fruitfulness?
2. How can you identify and remove these thorns before they completely suffocate your faith?
3. What does this parable teach about the necessity of ongoing spiritual cultivation and weed removal?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἄλλο	ἔπεσεν	εἰς	τὰς	ἄκανθαι	καὶ	ἀνέβησαν	αἱ
And	some	fell	among	G3588	the thorns	And	grew up	G3588
G2532	G243	G4098	G1519		G173	G2532	G305	
ἄκανθαι	καὶ	συνέπνιξαν	αὐτό	καὶ	καρπὸν	οὐκ	ἔδωκεν	
the thorns	And	choked	it	And	fruit	no	it yielded	
G173	G2532	G4846	G846	G2532	G2590	G3756	G1325	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 4:3** (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

**Luke 8:14** (Parallel theme): And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

**Matthew 13:22** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Matthew 13:7** (Parallel theme): And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

**Luke 8:7** (Parallel theme): And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

**Luke 12:15** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

**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.

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