

Kingdom Economics V

One of the most dangerous stumbling blocks in the life of a Christian is wealth. We live in a capitalistic society; that is, a society that says we have the right to make or earn as much money as we want or desire. There is no limit to how much money or wealth you may have. This may be acceptable in this world, but is it acceptable in the kingdom? In the first parable that our Lord Jesus speaks, He deals directly with the topic of riches:

Matt. 13:22 - **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.**

The Lord Jesus warns us in this parable of the seed sower that the deceitfulness of riches will choke the gospel within us and make us unfruitful.

I found this question on a gardening website: "Is this possible? We moved in to an extremely neglected home and yard in December. We hacked everything back as best we could, but now the honeysuckle, poison ivy, english ivy, virginia creeper and some other vine I dont know the name of are coming back with a vengeance. I dont know what to do to get rid of them completely besides pulling and pulling and pulling. I cant really round up that much bc they are in the middle of beds with shrubs that I am trying to resurrect." This is what happens when our focus is on riches. The desire for wealth becomes as these vines that begin to grow uncontrollably the gospel that was planted in us. Such a focus will affect how we read and interpret words in the Bible. Take, for example, Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

When the focus is worldly wealth, the passage will read like this:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; **AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.**

When the focus is His kingdom, the passage will read like this:

BUT SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; and all these things shall be added unto you.

This is why Paul instructed us not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Definition of a thistle - Any of numerous weedy plants, chiefly of the genera *Cirsium*, *Carduus*, or *Onopordum* of the composite family, having prickly leaves and variously colored flower heads surrounded by prickly bracts.

What then, is a weed?

There are numerous definitions of a weed, including:

- a plant out of place and not intentionally sown
- a plant growing where it is not wanted
- a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered. (R.W.Emerson)
- plants that are competitive, persistent, pernicious, and interfere negatively with human activity (Ross, et. al.)
- and many others

Luke 6:24 - **²⁴But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.**

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phuō (*foo'-o*) A primary verb; probably originally to “puff” or *blow*, that is, to *swell* up; but only used in the implied sense, to *germinate* or *grow* (*sprout, produce*), literally or figuratively:—spring (up).

James 5:1-5 - ***¹Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. ²Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. ³Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. ⁴Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. ⁵Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.***