

Luke 8:7, 14 Hindrances to Hearing: "Life"

**Fruitful hearing of God's Word is hindered by distractions of life.**

**Distractions** are not limited to trivial things (they can be very important things) or to inherently evil things (they can be legitimate).

**1) Jesus warns of three thorny weeds that can choke out our fruitful hearing of the Word of God.**

- a) Cares/anxieties
  - i) Basic needs (12:22-30)
  - ii) Responsibilities (10:38-42; 14:16-24)
- b) Riches
  - i) "Just a little more." (12:16-21)
  - ii) Fear of financial loss/insecurity (18:18-25)
    - (1) Closes the heart to God (16:13-14 "lovers of money" ridiculed Jesus)
    - (2) Closes the heart to humanity (16:19-31)
    - (3) There can be no growth without the exercise of faith in service to God and others.
- c) Pleasures
  - i) Evil desires sap strength from the soul.
  - ii) Self-serving recreations keep us from service to others.
  - iii) Ministry in a fallen world involves many unpleasantries (9:23).

**2) How can we control these weeds to be more fruitful hearers of God's Word?**

- a) Combat obsessive fear with trusting obedience (12:31-32).
- b) Combat love of money with treasuring Christ (12:33-34).
  - i) Philosophical Materialism—Naturalism; Life is here and now ("Imagine")
  - ii) Popular Materialism—"Material Girl"
- c) Combat the habit of killing time with the habit of redeeming time.