

“Weedy Dirt”



Unedited Notes from 4/17/16
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If we're not careful, we can unintentionally be running toward the wrong goal... During his time with the Minnesota Vikings, Jim Marshall was involved in what is considered by many to be the most embarrassing moment in NFL history. On October 25, 1964, in a game against the San Francisco 49ers, Marshall recovered a fumble and ran 66 yards with it the wrong way into his own end zone. Thinking that he had scored a touchdown for the Vikings, Marshall then threw the ball away in celebration. The ball landed out of bounds, resulting in a safety for the 49ers.

The Point: Weedy Dirt: Don't Be Distracted, This World Isn't the Goal
Mark 4:7, 18-19.

I. Watch Out for Weeds!

Keeping Up (v. 19a)

- “life” Gr. *bios* - life; the business and affairs of life, goods, or living; duration/means/manner of life (“the how”)
- "Keeping Up with the Joneses"
- Trying to be all that you are “expected” to be

Getting More (v. 19b)

- Thinking that money is the goal
- We want more, so we work longer, later, earlier

Wanting the World (v. 19c)

- ANYTHING that isn't Jesus won't satisfy, and won't help in the light of eternity

Making It Unfruitful!

- Keeping Up, so we are too busy for connecting in church, or a Pr'me Group
- Getting More, so we don't have time in the day to read our Bibles, or pray
- Wanting the World, so we intentionally or unintentionally push Jesus aside (at least until there is a problem, or we need something) but what if we got rid of the weeds first?



II. Tending the Soil In Our Hearts

Change Our Thinking

- 1 Corinthians 3:18-20
- We can't allow the world to infect our thinking--this world is NOT the goal--but slowly it creeps in and we start to get diverted
- Who or What is your source of truth? Facebook? TV? Politicians? Dr. Phil? Magazines? The Open Line? Your friends? Your emotions?

Change Our "Fighting"

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- We don't fight like the world--we don't manipulate; take revenge; "smear" campaign
- We pray and let GOD do the work

Change Our Focus

- 1 John 2:15-17
- Our focus MUST be on Jesus, or we do not have the love of God
- This is going to take hard decisions

III. Tending the Soil of The Story

Because of the "Weeds of the World", we need to be aware of some things when we tell the story of Jesus:

Give Them Perspective

- 1 Timothy 6:7
- Help people see that the story is much bigger than here and now--that's the point of eternity and Jesus!

Give Them Space

- Luke 9:23-25
- Share the Truth, but give them space to process it--DON'T FORCE IT!
- Because of the grip of the world, many people can't just cut out all of the weeds of their life--it needs to happen one step at a time
- NOTE: God Changes Hearts BEFORE He Changes Behavior!
- See *Dirt Week 2: Shallow Dirt: Don't Be Deceived, Following Jesus is Hard!*

Give Them to God

- 1 Corinthians 3:8
- We can't get caught up in "church world" evaluation; we need to evaluate from God's perspective
- We all have a part to play and you can't force it--do YOUR part!!
- See *Dirt Week 1: No Dirt: Don't Be Discouraged, Not Everyone Will Follow*