

A crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, is shown resting on a weathered wooden plank. The thorns are dark and sharp, with some small red spots that suggest blood. The background is a close-up of the wood's grain, creating a somber and textured atmosphere.

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Mark's Gospel Account

MAIN IDEA:

You can't defeat an enemy
if you don't know they're there.

Mark 4:1-20

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said:

Mark 4:1-20

³ “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.

⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

Mark 4:1-20

⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil.

Mark 4:1-20

It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”⁹ Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.

Mark 4:1-20

¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!””

Mark 4:1-20

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

Mark 4:1-20

¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

Mark 4:1-20

¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Mark 4:1-20

²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop — some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

MAIN IDEA:

You can't defeat an enemy
if you don't know they're there.

Jesus warns his disciples of three enemies...

1) The Devil

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."

-C.S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters

“It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out.” – Uncle Screwtape

*From the book “Screwtape Letters”
by C.S. Lewis*

Jesus warns his disciples of three enemies...

1) The Devil

2) The Flesh

Jesus warns his disciples of three enemies...

1) The Devil

2) The Flesh

3) The World

“[The enemy] has filled His world full of pleasures . . . Everything has to be twisted before it is any use to us. We fight under cruel disadvantages. Nothing is naturally on our side.”

– Screwtape

*From the book “Screwtape Letters”
by C.S. Lewis*

Ephesians 2:1-5

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the **ways of this world** and of the **ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 2:1-5

³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the **cravings of our flesh** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-5

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.

Jesus warns his disciples of three heart conditions...

1) A hard heart

Jesus warns his disciples of three heart conditions...

1) A hard heart

2) A shallow heart

Jesus warns his disciples of three heart conditions...

1) A hard heart

2) A shallow heart

3) A crowded heart

Jesus offers a path to victory...

1) Listen to God's Word

Jesus offers a path to victory...

1) Listen to God's Word

2) Accept what you hear

Jesus offers a path to victory...

1) Listen to God's Word

2) Accept what you hear

3) Welcome change

MAIN IDEA:

You can't defeat an enemy
if you don't know they're there.

A crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, is shown resting on a weathered wooden plank. The thorns are dark and sharp, with some small red spots that suggest blood. The background is a close-up of the wood's grain, creating a somber and textured atmosphere.

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Mark's Gospel Account