TALK IT OVER

The Worries of Life - The “Problem” as an Idol
Felipe Tibes | October 4th, 2026

Summary of the Message

In the parable of the sower, some seed falls among **thorns**, and the thorns grow up and choke it. Jesus explains that the **thorns are “the worries of life”** that crowd out God’s Word and leave us without fruit.

When money, status, career, job, reputation or wealth take the first place in our minds, **they stop being simple concerns and become idols.** We can even make ourselves the idol: thinking only about our own things, our own opinion and our own way, like a useless branch that is cut off from the vine.

The only way to have true peace is through Jesus. So we stay connected to the church, confess our sins, share our faith, watch over everything that occupies our minds, **and seek the kingdom of God first.**

Key Bible Verses

Matthew 13:7 (NLT)

The seed that fell among the thorns grew up with them, and the thorns choked out the young plants.

Matthew 13:22-23 (NLT)

*The seed among the **thorns** is the person who hears the message, but **“the worries of life”** and the lure of wealth crowd it out, and no fruit grows. The seed on good soil is the person who hears, understands and produces a harvest.*

John 15:5-8 (NLT)

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. Apart from Him we can do nothing, and a branch that does not remain in Him is thrown away and withers. When we stay in Him, we bear much fruit, bring glory to the Father and show that we are His disciples.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding, and seek His will in all you do. He will show you which path to take.

Matthew 6:31-34 (NLT)

Do not worry about what you will eat, drink or wear, because your heavenly Father already knows what you need. Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and He will give you everything you need. Do not worry about tomorrow.

Idolatry (dictionary): *“very great admiration or respect for someone or something, often too great.”*

Start Talking: Spark Conversation

1. When you are lying in bed at night, what is the first thing that pops into your mind and does not let you sleep?
2. If you could remove one thing from your to-do list this week with no consequences, what would it be?

Start Thinking: Deepen the Thought

3. Which “thorn” drains your mind the most right now: money, status, career, job, reputation or wealth? How does it affect your time with God and with people?
4. The dictionary says idolatry is admiration that is too great. Can a good thing, like work, family or goals, become an idol? How do you know when it crossed the line? (Think about the branch that tries to live apart from the vine in John 15.)

Start Sharing

5. Share about a time when a “problem” became so big that it filled your whole mind. What did it cost you: peace, relationships, time with God?
6. Be honest with the group: egocentrism, selfishness, arrogance, pride or stubbornness, which of these do you struggle with most? Is there someone around you who may have felt it?

Start Doing: Commit to Act

7. Which thorn will you ask God to help you pull out this week, and what is one concrete step you will take (a prayer, a conversation, a boundary)?
8. This week, which of these will you do: connect more with the church (a cell group, House of Prayer, serving), confess your sin to someone you trust, or share your faith with one person? Who, and when?

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MAKING DISCIPLES WHO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

Praying:

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for Your Word, which shows us the truth about our hearts. Thank You for Jesus, the true vine, who invites us to remain in Him. We confess that many times we let the thorns grow: the worries about money, status, career and reputation. Forgive us for the times we made our problems, or even ourselves, an idol.

Forgive our pride, our selfishness and our stubbornness, and the moments we did not care about the people around us. Help us to trust in You with all our hearts and not to lean on our own understanding. Teach us to watch over what occupies our minds and to bring every worry to You.

Give us the true peace that only Jesus can give. Keep us connected to our church family, honest about our sins and bold to share our faith. Help us this week to seek Your kingdom first, and to trust that You will take care of the rest.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Announcements:

- Family Fun Day: October 12th. Time: 9 a.m - 6 p.m Address: Chácara da PIB - Mandirituba https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCTGhJ5STWiGuZNpiI2I0bWLfjg0HaqGr71Iec8T3z-94K6g/viewform
- House of Prayer: every Friday at 7 PM At Centro de Formação.
- We need volunteers! Become a volunteer: talk to a leader to know more about it.