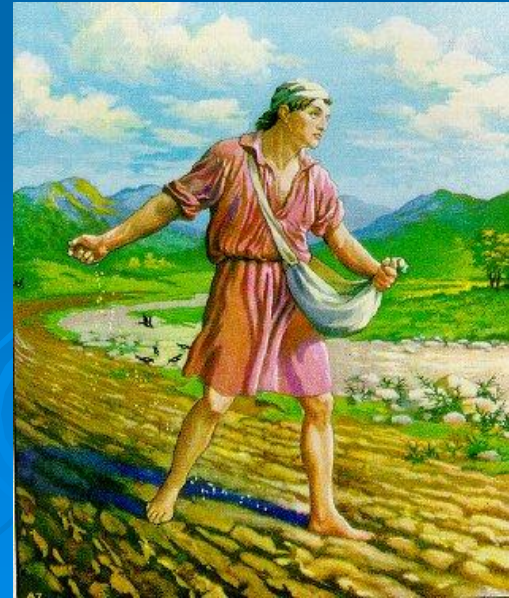


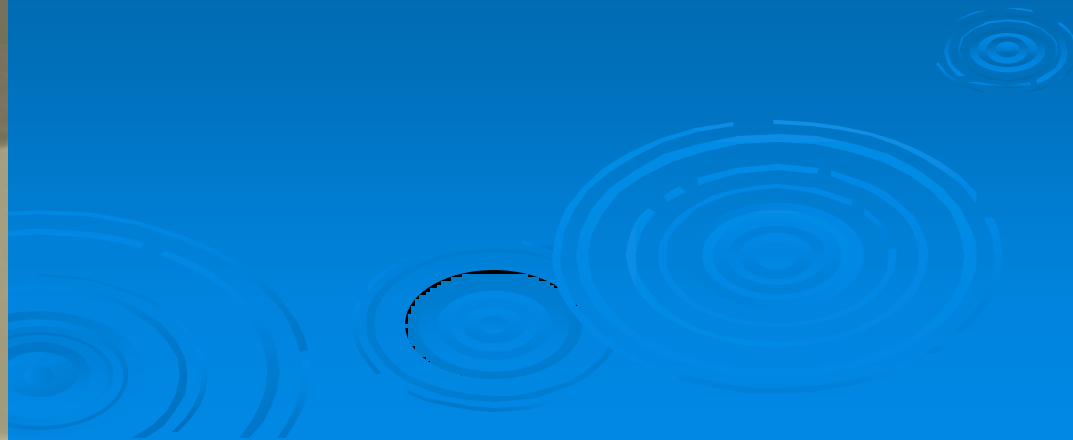
**“...when they have heard,
go out and are choked with
cares, riches, and
pleasures of life, and bring
no fruit to maturity”**

Luke 8:14



Choked with Care

The most deceptively justified
self-inflicted harm



☐ “God will excuse me!” (1)

- “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ ...For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.”

Luke 14:16-24

□ “God will excuse me!” (2)

- “Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him. Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.’”

Numbers 14:32-35

❑ “I do not pray, read the Scriptures, or worship God, but my heart is with Him!!!”

- “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” *Matthew 6:21*
- “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’” *Luke 12:20*



❑ “My schedule is very tight!
I have to take care of so many
things!!!” (1)

- “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:41-42



□ “My schedule is very tight!
I have to take care of so many
things!!!” (2)

- “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.”

Daniel 6:10



❑ “I am not doing something bad!!!”

- You may not be doing something bad, but you are not doing something good either.
- Even if someone else is covering my shortfall; this will not cover my sin.



❑ “Success has a price tag and I need to keep it up!!!”

- Success is not in numbers, but in balance and goals
- “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Matthew 16:26



**❑ “These days are exceptional!
I will soon resume my spiritual
activities later!!!”**

- What if this busyness lasts?
- What if I lose my first zeal and love towards God?



❑ “I am not a monk or a priest!!!”

- The command is for everyone to pray without ceasing and not lose heart.
- Choking with care can even distract you even if you live in the monastery and are not watching over your heart.

