

W O R D

P B V M

L A X E

R Y T Z

<THORNY PASSAGES>

Exploring prickly verses that highlight the consequences of our sin and disobedience.

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PROVERBS 22:5

⁵ *Thorns and snares* are in the path of the wicked;
whoever guards his soul will keep away from them.

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GENESIS 3:17-19

¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ **thorns and thistles** it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

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ISAIAH 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ² He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

ISAIAH 5:1-7

³ "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?

ISAIAH 5:1-7

⁵ Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and *briers and thorns* will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”

ISAIAH 5:1-7

⁷ The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

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JEREMIAH 12:10-13

¹⁰ Many shepherds will ruin my vineyard and trample down my field; they will turn my pleasant field into a desolate wasteland. ¹¹ It will be made a wasteland, parched and desolate before me; the whole land will be laid waste because there is no one who cares.

JEREMIAH 12:10-13

¹² Over all the barren heights in the desert destroyers will swarm, for the sword of the Lord will devour from one end of the land to the other; no one will be safe.¹³ ***They will sow wheat but reap thorns***; they will wear themselves out but gain nothing. They will bear the shame of their harvest because of the Lord's fierce anger."

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MICAH 7:2-4a

² The faithful have been swept from the land; not one upright person remains. Everyone lies in wait to shed blood; they hunt each other with nets.

³ Both hands are skilled in doing evil; the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes, the powerful dictate what they desire— they all conspire together. ⁴ The best of them is *like a brier*, the most upright *worse than a thorn hedge*.

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HEBREWS 6:7-8

⁷ Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. ⁸ But land that produces *thorns and thistles* is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

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MATTHEW 7:15-17

¹⁵ “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from *thorn-bushes*, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

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MATTHEW 13:1-9

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying:

MATTHEW 13:1-9

“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. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

MATTHEW 13:1-9

⁷ Other seed *fell among thorns*, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

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MATTHEW 27:27-30

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together *a crown of thorns* and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again.

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ISAIAH 55:10-13

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

ISAIAH 55:10-13

¹² You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³ *Instead of the thorn-bush* will grow the juniper, and *instead of briars* the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

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