

# Satan's Response to the Preaching of the Word

*J. Dwight Pentecost*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 13.

B. The Word of God is living and powerful, which Satan knows. (Hebrews 4:12)

C. For the Word to be effective there must be fruit. Satan desires to prevent the seed from taking root in the heart of the believer.

## II. The seed of the Word.

A. The good seed that fell along the wayside was not understood by the hearer and is removed by Satan so that it cannot reproduce itself.

1. Satan imposes blindness on the individual so that the individual cannot understand it.
2. Satan then removes it so that it cannot produce fruit.
3. Satan preoccupies us so that we do not embrace God's Word.

B. Some seed falls among those that receive it but reject it in the midst of persecution.

C. Some seed falls among thorns but are enticed away by the deceit of riches.

1. Satan does not care what you do, but he does care about what you believe and know.
2. He cannot let you receive the Word of God because to do so is to produce good fruit for God.
3. When we submit ourselves to the Word of God in a service, we are subject to Satan's sewing all week long.

D. The only difference in each episode was the state of preparation of the soil. The product of the Word of God enduring is proportional to the preparation of the heart.

### **Application questions:**

1. Why does Satan pose such a threat for churchgoers in particular?

---

---

2. Which act of Satan do you find yourself most prone to following?

---

---

3. What do you think it looks like to prepare the heart appropriately for God's Word? Explain.

---

---