Matthew 140

Spiritual confidence

James father-in-law Cary…going in for surgery and he needs our prayers.

You guys can jump back into Matthew chapter 13 to go over some principles today.

I want to first recap the lessons we learned looking at these types of Bels who fall away from the plan of God.

A few of these first few scriptures have a lot in common in that they never really grew up enough and shook off the emotional grip that we all go thru after living in the lies of the cosmic system.

/Mat 13:4 – *the seeds that fell on the roadside were eaten up by the birds.*

This is the Unbel who heard the gospel/truth but the cosmic system will gobble them back up because that Unbel has nothing but emotions & cosmic viewpoint to cling onto.\

This is the Unbel in the cosmic system who has truth given to him or her, but due to distractions and a viewpoint or knowledge obtained in the secular system they never absorb the truth.

They have nothing of any real substance to cling onto. What they believe to be truth is all based upon satanic lies.

/Mat 13:5 – *The seed that fell on the rocky places sprung up and then burned out quickly (withered).*

This is the Bel who gets just beyond that new Bel stage and actually gets some Bible Doctrine in their soul, but the pressures of life get the best of them and eventually they peel off.\

It may be family…friends or perhaps challenges and tragedy but something will eventually distract them and the process will begin to snowball quickly and they disappear back into the cosmic system. They had no depth of root so this points to someone who disappears after that honey moon stage.

/Mat 13:7 – *This is the seed that the thorns choke out.*

This is a Bel with years of Bible Doctrine under their belt, it may be a Bel who was a very serious student at one point but the devil’s world finally claims victory over them.\

Because they took their eyes off the prize…they had a new job...a new relationship or some difficulty or personal issue popped up and then another and shortly after that another problem or distraction came into their lives, and eventually they dropped their relationship with God altogether.

Usually a series of events or a slow move away from BD happens because of things piling up in their lives.

/The *thorns* that choke out are written in the plural sense meaning a bush or several bushes not just one. Notice how the *thorns came up* - this speaks to cosmic distractions repetitively tangles the Bel up. Life is filled with victory and defeat, hills and valleys it is what the Bel does after each encounter that matters in their spiritual walk.\

Remember TLJC was tempted more so than any other human being…He was constantly tested under pressure of the crowds and local authorities.

Think about how Satan himself had access to TLJC in the desert for over a month.

/Luk 4:13 When the devil had finished every temptation, he **left** (*aphistēmi*) Him until an **opportune time** (*kairos*).

Meaning to stand off to the side or withdraw. The *opportune time* is specific that it means a measure or a certain period.

(Mat 4:11 - depart quickly but not completely gone.)\

AH-FIST-AH-ME KAH-ROSS

In Matthew 4:11 it uses a similar word but it means to quickly step away because you have completed something or something scared you off…it doesn’t mean completely disappear. REPEAT

Don’t assume that once you have dealt with an attack or problem that now you will never face cosmic temptations or obstacles again.

Some difficulties and temptations we can pass and rarely ever see anything like it again….other times, we get the rapid fire succession of attacks over the course of a few years…we simply do not know.

The KOD will not simply quit because you had a victory.

We left off last lesson on Mat 13:8 where we will begin to note the positive Bels who move forward in the plan of God and how they develop stages of growth in their lives.

/Mat 13:8 And others fell on **the good soil** and **yielded a crop**, some a **hundredfold**, some **sixty**, and some **thirty**.

Yielding a crop is fruit of the Spirit manifested in a Bel’s life. This is pointing out stages of spiritual growth. Equality exists at the moment of salvation every Bel will grow at a different pace and some may never use their full potential.\

REPEAT ELABORATE

That good soil is the Bel who maintains a forward motion inside the plan of God. They have a hungry spirit for truth.

It is those Bels who will attain levels of SM. And there are levels of maturity in life and most certainly in the spiritual life as well.

The lineage I am under had several levels of SM that were taught by men like Col. RB Thieme JR …you may call them what you like but they become obvious once we study something like Matt 13:8.

The first level is a leap in your spiritual confidence that some call spiritual self -esteem.

It is a very important stage for a Bel.

It is described in a verse like Psa 118…

/Psa 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to **trust in man**. 9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD
Than to trust in **princes**.

This is talking about human viewpoint & trusting in wealth or even those in higher authority who seem to have all the answers in life.\

This spiritual confidence begins to unfold in a Bel’s life who has taken Bible Study to the next level after salvation. They begin to look at God’s word as the source for answers and truth

The Old Testament definition is found in Prov 19:8, “He who gets wisdom, keeps loving his own soul; He who guards understanding shall find the absolute good [spiritual prosperity].”

/Pro 19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps (*guards*) understanding will find good (*spiritual prosperity*).\

This is stage one…you gain wisdom by applying what you learned.

Meaning you trust God’s word as accurate over man’s knowledge.

 The person who keeps learning doctrine gains spiritual self-esteem, that is, he keeps loving the doctrine circulating in his own soul.

This is not arrogance.

Wisdom is the end result of perception and metabolization of doctrine. Wisdom is the application of that doctrine to experience. REPEAT

The application goes toward God, toward self, and toward others.

 Spiritual self-esteem replaces the former focus of eyes on people.

/The contentment of spiritual self-esteem replaces the former focus of eyes on things & people. The focus on who hurt you, who is holding you back or who is wrong and how you have so many obstacles or challenges and your focus goes on living the spiritual life and applying Bible Doctrine to life.\

This gets people away from the *poor me’s or the blame game.*

You recognize everyone has an OSN…we live in the devil’s world and the real answers come from the mind of TLJC.

You absorb BD….Metabolized doctrine in the stream of consciousness is guarded by the rate of learning exceeding the rate of forgetting doctrine.

REPEAT if you are consistent!

Scar tissue or that hard heart of the soul replaces metabolized doctrine when the rate of forgetting doctrine exceeds the rate of learning doctrine.

This means that the believer must be consistent and persistent in washing yourself clean…rebound when necessary and doctrinal inculcation.

Bible doctrine circulating in your soul provides a defense against the various categories of suffering related to providential preventative suffering.

Providential preventive suffering is related to those early stages of spiritual tests and suffering all Bels will begin to face.

/Spiritual self-esteem/spiritual confidence functions inside the Bel’s soul structure because integrity and divine virtue (impersonal love, unconditional love) have become a new norm & standard of lifestyle operation. This is developed from the filling power of Spirit and consistent intake of BD.\

This Bel learns to look objectively toward self through the mirror of the soul. The result is self-confidence based on metabolized Bible doctrine in the soul.

It is a divine consciousness and self-realization or awareness in not only who God is but who you are in His plan.

 This is the defence by which you are able to face and overcome providential preventative suffering. Self-identity, based on the mirror of doctrine in the soul, is formed from metabolized doctrine in the stream of consciousness. By that I am talking about your soul structure where your thoughts and motivations and norms and standards are at.

                            REPEAT

The Bel then develops a solid foundation of humility, meaning teachability…having humility is not humiliation it means you are humble enough to realize you need to be taught and you need divine guidance.

This will lead to application of Biblical standards and making scripture come to life in all areas of problem solving and thought processing.

Which also adds to this divine integrity and virtue that comes from using godly techniques and godly love to handle everyone and everything in your periphery.

This is like building blocks folks…one on top of the other as you grow stronger.

/Being alive as a Christian does not imply that you understand the protocol plan of God or even how to live the Christian way of life; this only comes with spiritual self-esteem/spiritual confidence (growth). This is not a self esteem or confidence in flesh or cosmic viewpoint but with a deeper relationship with God.\ REPEAT turn to Eph chapter 5

This first stage of growth means your trust in God’s plan and His word have become a tangible reality in your life.

The New Testament definition is found in the last half of Eph 5:28, “He who loves his own wife, loves himself.”

/Eph 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. **He who loves his own wife loves himself**;

Not an arrogant love of the flesh but a godly love and understanding of spiritual confidence. \

[Eph 5:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/29/s_1102029) for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, 30 because we are members of His body.

[Eph 5:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/31/s_1102031) FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

[Eph 5:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/32/s_1102032) This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

/[Eph 5:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/5/33/s_1102033) Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to **love his own wife even as himself**, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.\

Eph 5:33, “Nevertheless, each individual among you, also is to love his own wife as himself.” The phrase *“as himself*” is spiritual self-esteem.

We see it again in Mark chapter 12;

/Mar 12:29 Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 30 AND **YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART**, AND WITH **ALL YOUR SOUL**, AND WITH **ALL YOUR MIND**, AND WITH **ALL YOUR STRENGTH**.’\

The relationship with God has gone to the next level…you are now pouring yourself into this relationship all your understanding and trust and strength goes into this relationship therefore you are now growing from that relationship.

First stage of spiritual growth.

/[Mar 12:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mar/12/31/s_969031)“The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’** There is no other commandment greater than these.”\

That is AGAPE love… unconditional, impersonal and lasting...it has spiritual strength it is not dependent on human emotions.

Paul says in 2 Cor 13:5, “Test yourselves to see if you are in the doctrine…in the word.

Examine yourselves speaks to spiritual self-esteem!”

/2Cor 13:5 Test yourselves *to see* if you are **in the faith** (*the Word*); **examine yourselves**! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?\

You cannot test or examine yourself to see if your are *“in the doctrine*” until you have spiritual self-esteem. You have begun to develop a confidence outside of human arrogance and pride.

Jude 20, says…“But you, beloved, building yourselves up [spiritual self-esteem] in the most holy doctrine, praying in the Holy Spirit.”

/Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, **building yourselves up on your most holy faith** (*Bible Doctrine*), praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 **keep yourselves in the love** of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.\

Let’s close with 1Peter chapter 5.

 The Apostle Paul brings it up again in a different context;

1Thes 5:8, “But since we are of the day let us attain spiritual self-esteem after we have put on the breastplate of doctrine and virtue-love and the helmet of confidence of salvation.”

/1Thes 5:8 But since we are of *the* day, let us be **sober** (*nēphō*), having put on the breastplate of **faith** (*B.D. /Word*) and **love** (*agape*), and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

This points to self-control and applying God’s word with unconditional love (virtue).\

This is the present active subjunctive of the verb NAY FOE, which means to be free from drunkenness, to be self-controlled, to be well balanced, to be in the status of spiritual self-esteem, to attain spiritual confidence. REPEAT

Here’s what Peter says…

/1Pet 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, **clothe yourselves with humility** toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. UNITY!\

that term*- clothe yourselves with humility*

The Greek verb ECK-OH-BOW-UM-EYE means to pull it together… tie yourself or fasten yourself to one another.

In fact it was a term used for the clothing or harness type attire for a slave. This means others become more important than just yourself…grace orientation toward others begins to develop in your life.

/1Pet 5:6 **Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God**, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7

**casting all your anxiety on Him**, because He cares for you.

The Bel who begins to grow up will understand authority (chain of command) and accept Bible Doctrine with humility. They also learn to trust God with life’s challenges.\

This is something you will recognize in yourself slowly as you grow…this is stage one & it may develop slowly over years or in a few short months…everyone is different.

/[1Pe 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1pe/5/8/s_1156008) Be of **sober spirit** *(spiritual self esteem),* be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.\

The devil and his army never quit prowling around until after the battle of Armageddon when TLJC returns as the warrior king. That is a lesson for another day.

[/1Pe 5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1pe/5/9/s_1156009) But **resist him, firm in *your* faith** (*be confident in your doctrine*), knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.\

Attain spiritual self-esteem, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. But stand your ground [resist] him, strong in doctrine, because you know that your fellow believers throughout the world are experiencing the same categories of suffering.”

 You subordinate yourself to the authority of the pastor by listening to the doctrine taught by your pastor and, after accepting or rejecting that doctrine, living by the metabolized doctrine in your soul.

 By clothing yourself with humility toward others, you give them a chance to learn doctrine without any spiritual bullying from you.

Spiritual self-esteem demands harmony among believers. UNITY!!!!

And you cannot continue your spiritual advance without humility.

/This first stage of growth is spiritual self-esteem (spiritual confidence) begins to change the Bel as his/her relationship deepens with the Lord. Petty behaviours diminish over time (jealousy, anger, judging, etc.) because they now fully understand the filling power of H.S. & application of B.D.\

They don’t have it all figured out but they now have basic doctrinal principles working in their lives…a personality change will slowly happen in the area of love for others…patience and respect for authority.

Not that they become completely different but that subtle changes happen that even others close to them may pick up on.

But remember this a Bel in any stage of spiritual growth can back slide….King David had reached a high level of SM when he became lazy and lustful and committed a horrific set of sins with Bathsheba.