



TRAIL TIP:

Blazing your own trail could end up in the Cactus.

At our property in Texas there is a large cacti patch near the entrance. Scattered throughout the acreage is a patch here and there; sometimes a lone cactus sits in the grass unseen. There are many varieties on the place. Each one blooms at a different time of the spring or summer; all are very colorful with large beautiful flowers that don't look anything like the plant itself. One thing they ALL have in common though; if you get into them you know it right away and the painful and pesky nettles tend to stick with you

One thing you don't want to see starting to grow in your pastures or in your garden area are cacti or briars. Either one tends to take over or smother out anything else that wants to grow around it. You can't get any use out of a field grown up in the briars or cactus. And if you end up in the middle of it; you have a very painful experience.

In [Luke 8](#) Jesus had a parable, that is, an illustrated story to tell that included thorns/briars/cactus.

A sower [planter] went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold.....Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it and bring forth fruit with patience.

Yes, landing in the thorns, briars, or cactus is not good news.

Then why is it that we often want to just take off on our own paths without looking where we are going?

Just hopping on your horse and heading out into unexplored territory without looking the situation over can land you in a cactus patch.

Same thing in life: Just heading out without the clear instructions laid down in the Bible is just as reckless.

In the Word we have the instructions on how to get onto the Path of Everlasting Life. We have the instructions for avoiding the pitfalls, the heartaches, and a whole lot of unnecessary falls along with the junk that comes along with those bad choices or paths we take. So what makes us take off like that?

Sin. That's it. One word: Sin. We have a sin nature. We have need of a Savior. Just like in the parable that Jesus told some folks will accept Jesus and some will only experiment with "religion". Which are you? The seed in the briars or the seed that fell on good ground?