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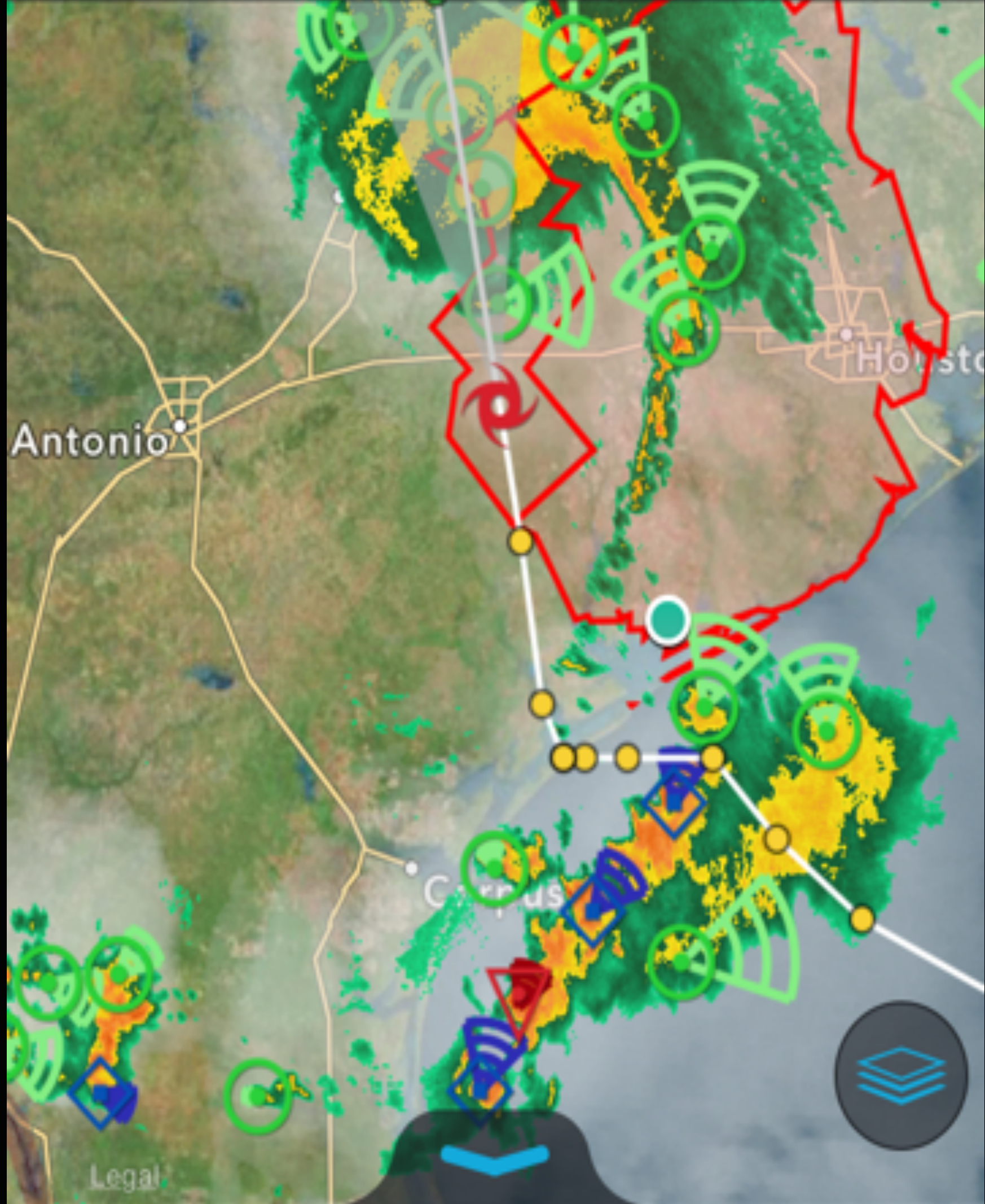


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Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

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Truth:

There are certain things that block people from pursuing the Kingdom and living a fruitful life for Jesus.

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Matthew 13:3 (NLT)

3 He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds.

Matthew 13:4 (NLT)

4 As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them.

Matthew 13:5 (NLT)

5 Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow.

Matthew 13:6 (NLT)

6 But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died.

Matthew 13:7 (NLT)

7 Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants.

Matthew 13:8 (NLT)

8 Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!

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Matthew 13:18 (NLT)

18 “Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds:

Matthew 13:19a (NLT)

19a The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it.

Matthew 13:19b (NLT)

19b Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.

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What blocks our pursuit of God and His Kingdom?

1. Satan (v. 19)

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What blocks our pursuit of God and His Kingdom?

1. Satan (v. 19)

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Matthew 13:20 (NLT)

20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy.

Matthew 13:21 (NLT)

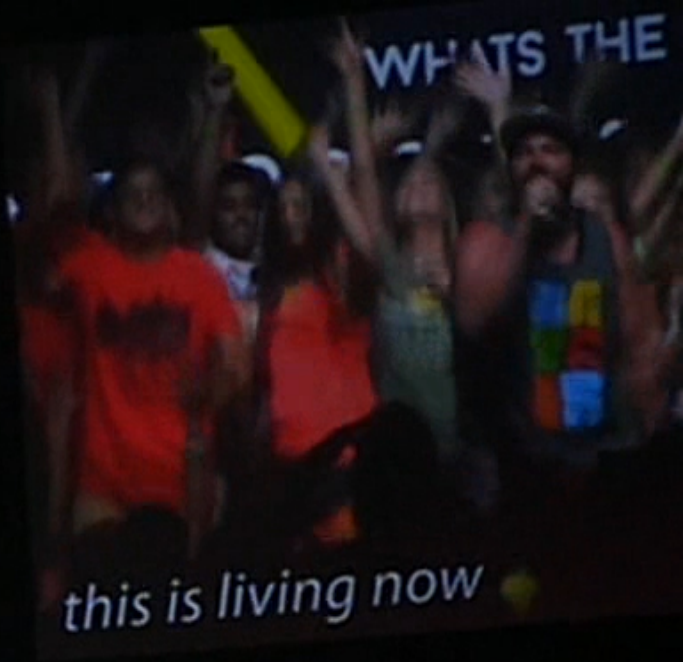
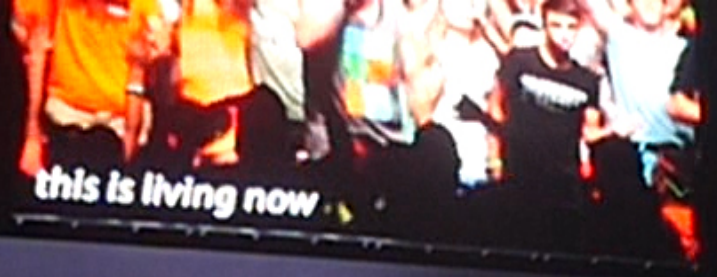
21 But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

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What blocks our pursuit of God and His Kingdom?

2. A Shallow Commitment (v. 20-21)

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Growing Strong Roots: - God's Word

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Growing Strong Roots: - God's People

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Growing Strong Roots: - God's Spirit

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What blocks our pursuit of God and His Kingdom?

2. A Shallow Commitment (v. 20-21)

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Matthew 13:22a (NLT)

22a The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word,

Matthew 13:22b (NLT)

22b but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.

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What blocks our pursuit of God and His Kingdom?

3. Distractions in Life (v. 22)

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Worries of this life

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Lure of wealth

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Mark 4:19 (NLT)

19 but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

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Desire of Other Things

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What blocks our pursuit of God and His Kingdom?

3. Distractions in Life (v. 22)

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Matthew 13:23a (NLT)

23a The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word

Matthew 13:23b (NLT)

23b and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

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Hosea 10:12a (NLT)

12a 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love.

Hosea 10:12b (NLT)

12b Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'

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