

## A Crown of Thorns

Most of us take a lot of things for granted. Especially the little things and small details of our life. Many times we become so familiar with the things around us that we don't even notice them or see them anymore. This also becomes true of many things in the Bible. We have read them so many times, heard so many sermons on them, that we don't even notice them anymore. Recently I noticed something. After the fall of man in Genesis 3, God says the following to Adam:

*"Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life." "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."*  
*Genesis 3:17-19*

When God curses Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, one of the aspects of the curse is that the ground will yield "thorns and thistles". This becomes symbolic of the curse of sin that we all experience once we are born into this fallen world. During the passion of Christ, He undergoes much prior to His crucifixion. At one point, He is handed over to the Roman soldiers and they make sport of him:

*The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and they called together the whole Roman cohort. They dressed Him up in purple, and after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; and they began to acclaim Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him. After they had mocked Him, they took the purple robe off Him and put His own garments on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him.*  
*Mark 15:16-20*

When Jesus is crucified, he is wearing a crown of thorns. HE IS WEARING A CROWN OF THORNS! He is wearing the curse of man's sin as a crown on His head. This is amazing that that God's word has these two interconnected things in it. How does God do it? This is a link that ties the creation and fall of man to the crucifixion of Christ. Jesus did not ask for the crown, the soldiers just did it. And yet, here we are, thousands of years later looking at the narrative of the son of man, Jesus, and we see Him wearing the curse as a crown, on His head, on the cross. He crucified the curse. Wow! But that is not all.

In the last part of the Genesis curse, God discusses our returning to the ground. It is where we get our "ashes to ashes, dust to dust" saying that is so common at funerals. But the ground does not hold Jesus, nor does He ever become dust. He is resurrected as the first born among many. Wearing the curse as a crown, he overcomes death, and leads the way to eternity for all of us to follow. While Jesus was on His way to Lazarus tomb, Jesus said the following to Mary right before He raised Lazarus from the dead:

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"*  
*John 11:25-26*

Do you believe this? Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead, has overcome the curse, has overcome death? If you do, Jesus says you will never die. The King, wearing a crown of thorns, has defeated our greatest enemy, death. He has overcome it. And to prove this truth to us, He rose from the dead himself after three days. Our bodies may lay in the tomb for while, just as Lazarus's body did, but Jesus is coming to get us, Jesus is coming to take us home, Jesus is going to resurrect our bodies and we are going to live forever. We do not return to the dust, we are only there a little while, until Jesus decides to come get us. Hallelujah! Glory to God! Welcome to eternity. May God richly bless you today with the knowledge and realization that you have eternal life in Jesus Christ.