

**Jeremiah 23:5-6**

**5** "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

**6** In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness<sup>1</sup>

**Zechariah 6:9-15**

**9** The word of the LORD came to me:

**10** "Take [silver and gold] from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon. Go the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah.

**11** Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of the high priest, Joshua son of Jehozadak.

**12** Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD.

**13** It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.'

**14** The crown will be given to Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen son of Zephaniah as a memorial in the temple of the LORD.

**15** Those who are far away will come and help to build the temple of the LORD, and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. This will happen if you diligently obey the LORD your God."<sup>2</sup>

**John 19:1-5**

**1** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

**2** The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe

**3** and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they struck him in the face.

**4** Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."

**5** When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.biblestudytools.com/jeremiah/passage.aspx?q=jeremiah+23:5-6>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.biblestudytools.com/zechariah/passage.aspx?q=zechariah+6:9-15>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.biblestudytools.com/john/passage.aspx?q=john+19:1-5>

Good Morning First Baptist Members and Friends. I greet you this Palm Sunday with the same words used by the crowd on that first Palm Sunday:

*"Hosanna to the Son of David!"  
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
"Hosanna in the highest!"<sup>4</sup>*

The modern day palmist said

*I will bless the Lord at all times;  
His praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord;<sup>5</sup>*

Those were the words on Sunday but before the next Sunday could arrive those people and others were yelling

**15...** *"Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"  
"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.  
"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.<sup>6</sup>*

Normally at this point in the introduction I would invite you to praise God, make some noise for God or in some other way get you ready to receive the Word. This morning I ask you to wait and praise Him when He has moved your heart. The modern day psalmist says every time I feel the Spirit I will pray.

The International Sunday School editors have challenged us this year. They asked us to consider the Palm Sunday story on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in March. The aim of that lesson was to remind us to praise Jesus by our words and actions. Looking at Matthew 21:1-11 I asked and answered the question:

### **WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM A DONKEY?**

My challenge to you after that sermon was to give God 30 minutes and ask Him to show you **WHAT YOU NEED TO LEARN FROM A DONKEY. Did anyone do their homework?**

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/passage.aspx?q=matthew+21:1-11>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.spiritandsong.com/compositions/79324>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.biblestudytools.com/john/19.html>

On the first Sunday we looked at the second cleansing of the temple as recorded by Mark and I asked us to focus on the parable of the fig tree as an introduction to the cleaning of the temple and I raised this question:

### **WHERE TO START MY SPRING CLEANING?**

The challenge following that sermon was

1. Reread the Ten Commandments
2. Read Micah 6
3. Find three NT scriptures about bearing fruit
4. and memorize them
5. THANK GOD FOR HIS WORD and ask yourself:

### **WHERE SHOULD I START MY SPRING CLEANING?**

**Did anyone do the challenge and complete the assignment?**

Leading up to Palm Sunday we have considered donkeys and fig trees and this morning I again will work with an item in the passage that is often overlooked. I ask you to prayerfully consider with me this theme:

### **WHY IS THE CROWN OF THORNS SIGNIFICANT?**

**SHALL WE PRAY** Father, I need you today, we need you today. Some of us have heavy and confused hearts. Some of us feel misused and abused. We come here and now to ask you to push away the dark clouds, so we may see you and hear from heaven. Father, when we hear from heaven give us the courage to act on what we hear and to do what we know is right. We are weak Lord and Satan too often comes into our lives and we do not see him for who and what he is. Help us. Abba, I ask that you use me this morning to feed your people. In the name of your Son Jesus the Christ we pray. AMEN and AMEN.

### **WHY IS THE CROWN OF THORNS SIGNIFICANT?**

One way to examine the significance of the Crown of Thorns is to consider where and when thorns were created. Genesis 3:17-19 in the amplified translation of the Bible says:

**Genesis 3:17-19**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

***17** And to Adam He said, Because you have listened and given heed to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it, the ground is under a curse because of you; in **sorrow and toil** shall you eat [of the fruits] of it all the days of your life.*

***18** Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field.*

***19** In the **sweat** of your face shall you eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you shall return.<sup>7</sup>*

If you can stay with me you might be able to see that thorns were the direct result of the sins of Eve and Adam. And as the result of that original sin, all of humankind has **sin, sorrow and sweat**.

**Therefore when Jesus wore that thorn of crowns He wore not only the sins of the world, but He also wore the sorrow and sweat of the world as well.**

We know that crowns are a sign of power and although those who made the crown were mocking Jesus and seeking to hurt Him even more the reality of the situation is that when the Crown, (symbol of authority) made of thorns (representing our sins, sorrow and sweat) was pressed on His head Jesus stood and declare that all power was still in His hands.

**Power over sin, power over sorrow and power over sweat.** There are other examples in scripture of what the thorns could mean but I want to limit our discussion to these three.

If Jesus is indeed your Lord of Lords and your King of Kings you do not have to **sweat** the small stuff. I don't know what makes you sweat but I **sweat** when things seem out of control; I sweat when I am afraid to do what needs to be done: I sweat when my money is funny; and I sweat every time I stand before you to preach the Word of God.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gen+3%3A17-19&version=AMP>

It might be fair to say that sweat is a by-product of worry and what does Scripture tell us about worry?

**6:25** "Therefore I tell you, do not **worry**<sup>33</sup> about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't there more to life than food and more to the body than clothing?

**6:26** Look at the birds in the sky:  
They do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you more valuable than they are?<sup>8</sup>

There are many scriptures about **sorrow** in both the NT and OT and I am sure you have your favorites but I like to remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Or I will look to the hills from whence cometh my help and remember that all my help comes from the Lord. Sorrow is an invitation to go to God in prayer. Jesus has declared He is King of my **sorrow**, my burdens, and my cares so I can take it all to Jesus and leave it right there.

And finally that Crown of Thorns represented **my sin. I am not going to mention your sins, but I will share some of mine.**

- Sins of omission and commission, sins thought about and sins acted upon.
- Sins of spinning the truth to fit the situation;
- Sins giving up the right for the wrong in the hopes of keeping peace;
- Sins of not speaking the truth in love;
- Sins of hearing the truth and ignoring it because it does not fit with your agenda.

When Jesus wore that Crown of Thorns He **put on all my sin, all my sorrow and all my sweat** and in order for me to benefit from the work Jesus did on my behalf all I have to do is:

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<sup>8</sup> <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/Matthew+6:24>

*<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.<sup>9</sup>*

But wait there is more! Not only will I be saved but I can work toward my own crown.

### **Every Lasting Crowns<sup>10</sup>**

#### **1 Corinthians 9:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a **crown that will last forever**. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

#### **2 Timothy 4:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

#### **James 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive **the crown of life** that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

**Phillipians 4** Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and **crown**, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

#### **1 Thessalonians 2:19**

<sup>19</sup> For what is our hope, our joy, or **the crown in which we will glory** in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+10&version=NIV>

<sup>10</sup> [The Five Crowns in Scripture www.generationword.com](http://www.generationword.com)

## **1 Peter 5:4**

<sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown of glory** that will never fade away.

### **WHY IS THE CROWN OF THORNS SIGNIFICANT?**

**Freed me from sin, sorrow and sweat**

**Gave me freedom to work toward Crowns Everlasting**