**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Crown |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 27:26-31 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1777 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The Lord Jesus was crowned with thorns.
      1. It was not incidental.
      2. It was not accidental.
   2. The crowning of thorns was a cruel mockery.
      1. It was a wicked act of hatred and rebellion.
   3. In another sense, Jesus being crowned with thorns was part of a drama that had been written before the world was created.
      1. Jesus being crowned with thorns has a message that is indescribably glorious and wonderful.
   4. Matthew 27:26-31
   5. Today’s message will share some wonderful truths about why the crown of thorns was not incidental nor accidental.
      1. God allowed this to happen.
      2. Though it was done by the hands of wicked men, it was a part of the magnificent plan of Almighty God.
2. the sacred mystery of that crown (genesis 3:17-19)
   1. In one sense, the crown of thorns was the random thought, the cruel jest, and the hollow mockery of a Roman soldier.
      1. On the other hand, there was a mystery here known in the heart and mind of God.
   2. The crown of thorns symbolizes the curse that was put upon humanity because of sin.
      1. When God created mankind, God put mankind in the Garden of Eden.
         1. There were no thorns, thistles, or brambles.
            1. The first rose that ever bloomed was a rose that bloomed without thorns.
      2. Genesis 3:17-19
         1. The curse came upon Adam and Eve because they sinned; they disobeyed God.
         2. Thorns and thistles began to grow on planet Earth.
            1. Until this time, they had not grown.
            2. They are signs of the curse of sin upon humanity.
      3. Hebrews 6:8
         1. Jesus bore the thorns as He wore that crown.
      4. Had Adam not sinned, thorns would never have grown on the Earth.
      5. Jesus wore that crown because He bore that curse.
   3. The thorns that Jesus wore on His head speak of the hardship, the sorrow, and the death that comes with sin.
      1. Are you having heartaches?
      2. Are you having sorrow?
      3. Do you know sickness?
      4. The thorny pathway that we walk is because of sin.
      5. The bed of briars that we sleep on is because of sin.
      6. No matter how well you may be or think you are right now, and no matter how you may feather your nest, there is a thorn in it.
         1. And sooner or later, you will find it.
         2. When you go out into the field to work, no matter what your occupation, you will be working in a thorny field.
         3. Your body will find, like the Apostle Paul, a thorn in the flesh.
         4. You will know sickness, you will know suffering, and you will know pain because something happened to creation.
   4. Romans 8:22
      1. There is a curse upon everything because of sin.
         1. Look at every hospital.
            1. Sin did this.
         2. Look at every mental institution.
            1. Sin did this.
         3. Look at every jail.
            1. Sin did this.
         4. Look at every twisted and warped body.
            1. Sin did this.
         5. Look at all the heartache, pain, toil, and anguish, and you can write over it one word: sin.
   5. The thorn is the emblem and the symbol of sin.
   6. When Jesus died on the cross, He was crowned with thorns.
      1. He wore the crown because He bore the curse.
3. the solemn misery of that crown (matthew 27:29-30)
   1. The crown speaks of suffering and pain.
   2. The crown was placed upon Jesus’ head.
      1. Matthew 27:29
      2. The temple is one of the most sensitive parts of the human body.
         1. Those great spikes (thorns) were put there.
   3. With a club, the soldiers beat and battered the head of the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. Matthew 27:30
   4. His face was so brutalized that one could not tell whether it was the face of a man or an animal.
      1. With their hands, they snatched the beard from His face.
         1. Isaiah 50:6
      2. With their fists, they battered His face and loosened His teeth.
      3. Blood ran down His nostrils and mingled with the filthy spittle from their mouths.
      4. Isaiah 52:14
         1. He didn’t look like a man.
            1. He didn’t even seem human there upon the cross.
      5. Isaiah 53:4
   5. Never be ashamed of Jesus, who wore that crown for you.
      1. How could we ever blush to speak His name or to own His cause?
      2. Jesus wore our crown.
   6. He suffered our Hell.
      1. 1 Peter 3:18
4. the shameful mockery of that crown (matthew 27:29)
   1. Matthew 27:29
      1. They mocked Jesus because of their rebellion.
      2. They were saying that He was not their king.
         1. They would not bow the knee to Him.
   2. They ridiculed His right to rule.
      1. They didn’t put a purple robe on Him.
         1. That was the sign of royalty.
      2. They put a red robe on Him.
         1. That was the symbol for sin.
      3. They didn’t put a scepter in His hand.
         1. They put a reed in His hand.
      4. They didn’t put a diadem on His brow.
         1. They put a crown of jagged thorns on His brow.
      5. The homage they paid Him was to spit in His face.
   3. The root of all sin is not what we do wrong that we should not do, or not that we fail to do what we should do.
      1. Sin is refusing to bow the knee to our rightful King.
         1. These other things are the result.
      2. Sin is rebellion.
      3. Sin is a clinched fist in the face of God.
   4. Psalm 2:1-3
      1. Rage is what someone does when he doesn’t know the answer.
      2. “His anointed” means “His Christ.”
      3. We do not want Christ to rule over us.
   5. When Jesus Christ came into this world:
      1. He came into the Roman world of government.
      2. He came into the Greek world of culture.
      3. He came into the Hebrew world of religion.
         1. Those were the dominant thoughts, and they rejected Him.
            1. Rather than crowning Him with a diadem, they crowned Him with thorns.
   6. Today, the same thing is happening.
      1. In the world of government, we have outlawed the Lord Jesus Christ.
         1. We move from one dilemma to another and from one crisis to another.
            1. And we leave the One (who is the only One) who can unscramble the whole mess standing outside the door.
      2. In the world of culture, can you imagine standing up in one of the great universities and saying that Jesus Christ is the answer?
         1. There is room for humanism.
         2. There is room for blasphemy.
         3. There is room for fornication, for perversion, for adultery, but there is no room for the Lord Jesus Christ.
      3. We do not bow the knee to Jesus Christ.
      4. Many churches in the world today are glorified country clubs with steeples on top.
         1. The Lord Jesus Christ is left standing outside the door.
         2. How many churches are still preaching the Bible, the blood, and the blessed hope of the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?
         3. It was a religious crowd that crucified the Lord Jesus Christ.
            1. Most people don’t need religion; they need to turn from religion to Jesus Christ.
   7. People today, like people then, refuse to bow the knee to Jesus Christ.
      1. Today, you will either bow the knee or crown Him with thorns one more time.
5. the saving ministry of that crown (2 Corinthians 5:21)
   1. Why did Jesus wear a crown of thorns?
      1. God was teaching a lesson that He (Jesus) who knew no sin, God made to be sin for us.
         1. 2 Corinthians 5:21
      2. Our crown of thorns (our sin, our curse) was put on the head of the Lord Jesus Christ.
         1. Jesus bore the punishment.
   2. You are a sinner, and your sin will be punished.
      1. God is a holy God, and God has sworn by His holiness that all sin will be punished.
      2. God never has, God never can, and God never will let one-half of one sin go unpunished.
      3. Who will bear that punishment, you or Jesus?
         1. Sin will be pardoned in Christ or punished in Hell.
            1. But sin will never be overlooked.
   3. 2 Corinthians 5:21
      1. Jesus took our sin, and He carried it to the cross.
   4. Where was Jesus Christ crowned with thorns?
      1. At Calvary, at Golgotha, at Mt. Moriah.
         1. They are all the same mountain.
   5. Genesis 22:1-14
      1. Centuries before Jesus Christ was born, God told Abraham to take his only son (the son whom he loved, the son of promise) to a place He would show him; not just any place but a certain place.
         1. And there, Abraham would offer his son.
      2. Isaac knew they were going to make a sacrifice.
         1. He saw the wood to burn the sacrifice.
         2. He saw the fire to start the sacrifice.
         3. But where was the lamb?
            1. Abraham told Isaac that God would provide Himself a lamb.

Genesis 22:8

* + 1. Abraham didn’t understand, but he believed God.
       1. He knew that God could raise Isaac from the dead.
          1. Hebrews 11:17-19
    2. Isaac was strong and could have overcome Abraham, a man well over a hundred years of age.
       1. But he willingly submitted and became a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
    3. God provided a substitute.
       1. There was a ram caught in a thicket.
          1. The Hebrew word means “a thicket of thorns.”
          2. His head was caught in the thorns.
          3. God told Abraham to take him instead.
       2. The ram, crowned with thorns, became the sacrifice in place of the one who should have been and would have been sacrificed.
          1. No wonder Jesus said, “Abraham saw My day and was glad.”

John 8:56

* 1. God preached the Gospel to Abraham long ago.
     1. Here is one sacrifice (Isaac).
        1. He gets up.
     2. Here is another sacrifice, crowned with thorns.
        1. That is the saving ministry of the crown.
  2. Abraham built many altars.
     1. Follow the life of Abraham, and you will find that the trail is dotted with altars.
     2. But he never built another altar after this episode.
        1. This was the perfect altar because it pictured the perfect sacrifice.
  3. After Jesus Christ died upon the cross, there was no need for any other altar.
     1. Hebrews 10:14
     2. To build another altar would be blasphemy.
     3. It is finished.
        1. It is done; it is paid in full.
        2. Jesus paid it all, and all to Him I owe.
  4. The same sin that Jesus drank from that cup, He now wore on His head as He went to Calvary.

1. the sovereign majesty of that crown (acts 4:27-28)
   1. Did Jesus die as a helpless victim?
   2. Did Jesus die because things got out of control?
   3. Do you think that perhaps Satan was on the throne, and Satan did all of this?
   4. Acts 4:27-28
      1. The Apostles were preaching after the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
         1. They were seeing now with eyes washed with tears and revelation faith.
         2. They spoke to those who crucified Jesus.
   5. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was not incidental, it was not accidental, but it was a drama fulfilled in the heart and mind of God.
      1. When Jesus wore this crown, He was the sovereign majesty, not a helpless victim.
      2. God ordained ahead of time what should be done.
         1. He was in perfect control.
         2. Crowns have always been a symbol of authority.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. Jesus, in the Glory, wears a crown.
      1. A crown of peace.
      2. A crown of righteousness.
      3. A crown of glory.
   2. Your security, your safety, and your salvation are found in a name.
      1. A name above all names.
         1. Philippians 2:9
      2. The name of the One who wore your crown.
   3. You have a choice today:
      1. You can bow the knee and honor Jesus, or, you can tell Him to take that crown from off His head and put it on yours.
         1. You will bear your own curse.
         2. You will pay for your own sin because you refuse to bow the knee to the One who loves you; it is your choice.
   4. Jesus offers to you amazing grace and wonderful love.
      1. You can be saved today.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16