

## **Sermon Notes**

April 21, Easter Sunday

"Crowns of Thorn and Gold"

Mathew 27:29, Matthew 28, 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 4:10

In today's sermon we conclude our seven-week journey called **40 Days to a Cross, 3 Days to a Crown**. It has been a journey of denying self, taking up our cross and following Jesus. Culminating today, with resurrection Sunday, we are going to talk about the cynical crown of thorns from Jesus' crucifixion, transitioning to the powerful crown of eternal glory that Christ earned with his blood and resurrection, a crown he shares with us through faith. Today we would like to fit each of you for a crown!

### **1. On the cross, Jesus wore a crown of thorns. The crown intended for his pain and shame, instead is a symbol of my gain. (Matthew 27:29, John 19)**

- Those who don't understand the cross or Jesus may see the whole event as folly, but what causes some to stumble bridges others to life!
- In Christ I can inherit a kingdom that is beyond and above this world! To the one who has denied self and taken up the cross ... today is about LIFE! (1 Corinthians 1:18)

### **2. In resurrected glory, Jesus is the King of Kings and wears the crown of crowns. (Matthew 28), (Revelation 5)**

- Imagine knowing a real king. Imagine being related to a real king. Jesus' crown was earned in blood, obedience and victory ... ours will be received by grace through faith alone.
- Jesus has decided to share the best fruits of his victory with us (2 Timothy 4:8)

### **3. Crowns are a part of the inheritance we have in Jesus. Make no mistake... Christianity is not without its rewards! We should covet and pursue the Crown of Life!**

- We should look to the salvation of our generation as the best "crowns" available after our salvation! (1 Peter 5:4; Philippians 4:1)

### **4. Whatever crowns we receive will seem like confetti, to be tossed at the feet of the one true King! (Revelation 4:10)**

**Conclusion** ... do not be fooled by a crown of thorns, or seduced by a crown of gold ... life's ultimate achievement is found only in knowing Christ!