

CROWNED

————— with —————

Glory and Honour

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Scripture Passage

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

NRSV

Sermon

Crowned with Glory and Honor

The Psalm that we read today is a beautiful Psalm. This Psalm is about this beautiful world that we live in. This Psalm reminds me of the hymn we heard today (How Great Thou Art), "O Lord My God, when I'm in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hands have made." Also this song reminds me of Louis Armstrong's What a Wonderful World: "I see trees of green, red roses too. I see them bloom for me and you and I think to myself what a wonderful world". This psalm says "when I look at your heavens the work of your fingers. The moon and the stars that you have established" (Psalm 8:3).

The Beautiful World God Created

In the world God created, there are so many beautiful things: the mountains, rivers, deep forests, trees, the sun and the moon, and the beautiful stars in the sky. There are so many things that are so beautiful. Above all God made human beings the most beautiful. This is what the psalm said, "what are human beings, that you

are mindful of them, mortals, that you care for them, yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor" (Psalm 8:4-5). We are just a little lower than God. The Psalm says that we are just a little lower than God. How honored and how beautifully we must have been made! Genesis says that we were created in God's beautiful image. Today's psalm tells us that we human beings are crowned with glory and honor. Another psalm praises God like this "I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made wonderful are your works that I know very well my frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret intricately woven in the depths of the earth" (Psalm 139).

The Beautiful You God Created

Sometimes, my friends, we feel like we are nobody. We feel like we are nothing. But not to God. To God we are a masterpiece that God has put all his effort into to create. The writer of today's psalm knew of the care that God has put into creating us. "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them. (Psalm 8:4)". We treat ourselves like we are nobody but God treats us as the most precious

thing in the world. Would God throw away something that he created with such care God? Would He just use us and throw us away? No! I don't think so. God will preserve us and God will keep us when life is over on this earth. God will bring us back to his embrace. That's what God will do. God will not just throw away that which he made so beautifully. God made us with such care and he told us to use the same care to care for the world that He created. This is what the psalm says, "You have even then dominion over the works of your hands you have put all things under their feet" (Psalm 8:6). God gave us the commission to take care of the beautiful world that he created. That is our responsibility. Destroying the beautiful world that God created is going against God's will. That is a serious sin.

God Put On Our Crowns

Above all, God told us to keep in mind the dignity of human beings. We have to keep each other's dignity. God has crowned us with glory and honour. We are precious and beautiful because God crowned us with glory and honour. Not because we are better than other people. No one can take away the crown that God has crowned us with. No matter how small a

person may be. No matter how insignificant and powerless a person may be. No matter how weak and vulnerable we may be. On the head of that person, there is a crown of glory and honour that God has put on. We cannot take that down and trample it. That is going against God's will. We have to keep the dignity of a human being. Jesus told us to love your neighbor. That means to keep the dignity of your neighbor. We should not ignore and insult another human being. No matter how angry we may be, we simply cannot humiliate another person.

Whenever a person's dignity is trampled down, we should fight to restore it because that is something that must be kept intact. Jesus fought for the dignity of human beings. The poor, the sick, prostitutes, sinners, and tax collectors – they were ostracized, rejected and alienated but Jesus fought for their dignity, sacrificing his own life.

Keep Each Other's Dignity

We are so saddened by the story of a precious and beautiful life that was trampled to death in Minnesota. We are saddened because the dignity of a person was

trampled. That's why so many people came out on the street in almost every city and every state not only in the US but the whole world. Their voices were loud and clear. Human dignity must be honored. Racism is a sin that destroys the dignity of a person. George Floyd was literally trampled to death. Al Sharpton shouted, "Take your knee off of our neck." Whenever I think about how he died, it brings tears to my eyes. How can a person die like that? His last words were, "I can't breathe" and "Momma". His mother died two years ago, but he called out "Mama". When we are experiencing the last moment of our lives, we are missing the embrace of Mama. That's why he called out, "Mama".

We are precious in God's eyes. There is nothing more important than realizing that we are precious. When we understand this, we will understand the heart of Jesus. When we have that understanding, our life will change. Don't forget that you have a crown of glory and honor. And also don't ever, ever forget that there is a crown on your sister's and brother's head, the crown of glory and honor that God has put on. Whenever this crown is taken away, we should put it on again. Let us keep each other's dignity.