**R847 (76) Rumination for April 18, 2021 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **The Crown of Thorns** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head.* Mt. 27:29

The **T**hots:

**L**ast week, we **R**emembered the Symbols of the **C**ross, and the Tomb where our **L**ord was **B**uried.

This week, **L**et us **R**emind ourselves of the **S**ignificance of the **S**ymbols of the **B**read and the **C**up

 even as we **R**emember the **S**ign of the Thorns that made up His “**C**rown”.

1. **The Symbol of the Crown that was Platted for Christ. ` Mt. 27:29**

 *And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head*

1. It was a symbol of the soldiers’ **T**wisted mind to mock Jesus!

 *They stripped Him …and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His* ***head****.* Mt. 27:29, NIV

1. It was a symbol of the soldiers’ **T**orture of the innocent Victim.

 *They spit on Him, and took the staff and struck Him on the* ***head*** *again and again.* Mt. 27:30

1. It was a symbol of the **S**inner’s **C**urse – the **T**horns in the **C**rown. } See #B, C
* Later, Jesus was his **S**ubstitute to bear the **C**urse of his **S**ins on Himself on the **C**ross. } below
1. **The Symbol of the Curse Pronounced…**
2. On **S**inning Mankind.

*Cursed is the ground for thy sake...****thorns*** *also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee.* Gen. 3:17, 18

1. On **S**tubborn Israel.

 *Upon the land of My people shall come up* ***thorns*** *and briers;* Isa. 32:13

1. On **S**inful Gentiles.

*For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations* (Gentiles)…Isa. 34:2

***Thorns*** *will overrun her citadels, nettles and brambles her strongholds.* Isa. 34:13

* Indeed, *all have sinned*, and *there is none righteous, no, not one*! Rom. 3:23, 10
1. **The Symbol of Curse Placed on Christ.**
2. Jesus **B**ore the curse of sin on the cross. Gal. 3:13a
	1. The **C**rown of thorns was a symbol of the curse of the law that man was not able to obey.

 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.*

* 1. The **C**rucifixion was another symbol of the curse of the law – *for it is written…*

 *Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:* Gal. 3:13b

 *For he that is hanged is accursed of God.*  Deut. 21:23

* 1. **C**hrist wearing the **C**rown of thorns and **C**rucified on the **C**ross bore our **C**urse. See below.
1. In His own **B**ody, Jesus bore our sins on the cross. I Pet. 2:24

 *Who his own self bare our sins in His own* ***body*** *on the tree.*

* + 1. In order to **D**ie for our sins, Jesus took upon Himself a body.

*Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith… “a* ***body*** *hast Thou prepared Me”* Heb. 10:5

* + 1. When He **D**ied on the cross, the veil (curtain) in the temple was rent in two:

*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.* Mt. 27:51, NIV

 Signifying that *a new and living way* (has) *opened for us through the curtain, that is, His* ***body.*** Heb. 10:2

1. With this, a new **Body** is now formed, having broken down the partition between Jews and Gentiles.
2. It **C**omprises of **R**econciled and **R**edeemed Jews and Gentiles in the one body. Eph. 2:16

 *And that He might reconcile both unto God in one* ***body*** *by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby*

1. The **C**hurch is now His one body, be they Jews or Gentiles, all having been baptized in the one Spirit.

*For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one* ***body****-- Jews or Greeks…* I Cor. 12:13, NIV

1. **The Symbols of Personal Remembrance.**

New Symbols are now given to the Church and to us personally – no more the symbol of the thorn, but…

1. The Symbol of the **B**read – it is His **B**ody given for us.

 *Take, eat: this is My* ***body****, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:24

1. The Symbol of the Cup – it is His **B**lood shed for us.

*This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you.* Lk. 22:20

*This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye…in remembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:25

As we partake of the symbols this Lord’s Day, let us not fail to **R**emember and **R**evere Him.

*Sweet feast of love divine! ‘Tis grace that makes us free*

*To feed upon the bread and wine, In memory, Lord, of Thee.*

*That blood that flowed for sin, In symbol here we see,*

*And feel the blessed pledge within, That we are loved of Thee.*

Sir E. Denny

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 847**

**1**. In our world, thorns continue to grow and trouble us in various forms and in various ways.

**They are a Witness…**

* to Man’s **S**inful Condition. Gen. 3:17, 18

*And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife,*

*and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it:*

*cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

***Thorns*** *also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.*

* To God’s **S**courge of Israel for their **S**tubborn Condition: Josh. 23:13

*Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations*

*from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides,*

*and* ***thorns*** *in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God*

*hath given you.*

*Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be*

*as* ***thorns*** *in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you*. Jud. 2:3

* To Man’s **S**lothfulness and Head-**S**trong Condition: Pro. 15:19; 22:5

*The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of* ***thorns****: but the way of the righteous*

*is made plain…****Thorns*** *and snares are in the way of the froward:*

*he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.*

* To **S**atan’s **W**iles to **S**uffocate the growth of the **W**ord: Matt. 13:7; Mk. 4:7

*And some fell among thorns; and the* ***thorns*** *sprung up, and choked them:*

*And some fell among thorns, and the* ***thorns*** *grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.*

Be aware of these **thorns** in your life’s pathway, and do not allow them to grow and inhibit your

Christian growth. As one Sunday School chorus expresses so clearly:

*My heart may be like a garden fair,*

*loving words and thoughts and deeds a blossoming there;*

*Or it may be a place of poison weeds,*

*growing into ugly thoughts and words and deeds.*

*Lord Jesus, make my heart a garden fair.*

*Come, Thou Thyself, and be the Gardener there.`*

 (H. H. Lemmel CSSM Choruses). **REFLECT**

**2.** On the other hand, God can also send thorns into our lives for good to teach us certain lessons

in life. That was what He did with Paul for him to write the following: II Cor. 12:7-10
*And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations,*

 *there was given to me a* ***thorn*** *in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me,*

 *lest I should be exalted above measure.
For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.
And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. ­*

Have you ever experienced or are you experiencing such a *thorn in your flesh* today?

 If so, how are you coping with it especially during these critical days of the Covid-19 pandemic?

 **REFLECT.**

 **Points to Ponder:** *God may give you a Thorn in your Flesh,*

*but never be a Thorn in someone’s Flesh?*