HE LAID HIS GLORY BY?

"GOD OF GOD, LIGHT OF LIGHT, VERY GOD OF VERY GOD" – THI JESUS "WHO, THOUGH HE WAS IN THE FORM OF GOD & DID NO' REGARD EQUALITY WITH GOD AS SOMETHING TO BE GRASPED" HE "HE LAID HIS GLORY BY" – PUT HIS CROWNS ASIDE! YO LOOK AT THE BULLETIN COVER & YOU SEE A RATHER PENSIV LOOKING SAVIOR – NO ROYAL ROBES, NO CROWN. HE LAI ASIDE HIS HEAVENLY HONOR & GLORY WHICH WERE HIS FRO ALL ETERNITY & HE WAS "MADE A MAN"....."TOOK UPO HIMSELF THE FORM OF A SLAVE." HE LAID HIS GLOR BY!.....AND IN ITS PLACE, THIS ROYAL SON OF THE MOST HIGI GOD TOOK UPON HIMSELF *DUST* – OUR HUMAN FLESH & BLOO & ALL THAT THAT IMPLIES. "FOR WE ARE DUST....& UNTO DUS WE SHALL RETURN." AND SO MUST HE! "HE BECAME OBEDIEN UNTO DEATH, EVER DEATH ON A CROSS." HE LAID ASIDE HI GLORY FOR US AND FOR OUR SALVATION.

IN THE BEGINNING ADAM & EVE SOUGHT A CROWN – SOUGH TO BE IN CHARGE – SOUGHT AS THE SERPENT PUT IT TO BE LIK GOD" – KNOWING WHAT WAS GOOD OR NOT GOOD FO THEM.SO THEY REACHED OUT FOR SOMETHING WHICH WA NOT THEIRS. THE RESULT WAS .... *DUST!* AND SUDDENLY THE DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD LESS THAN THEY HAD BEFORE -- & SOON EVEN THAT WOULD EVADE THEIR GRASP. "YOU ARE DUST & TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN." REACHING OUT FO WHAT THEY WERE FORBIDDEN TO TAKE, THEY HAD TO LET GO OF THE GLORY GOD HAD GIVEN THEM..... SO DO WE ALL! WE GRASP FOR POWER ..... & THE DUST TO WHICH WE MUST RETURN LEAVES US POWERLESS. WE GRASP FOR FAME & RECOGNITION ,,,,. & LIKE DUST IT BLOWS AWAY. WE GRASP FO WEALTH ..... & FIND THAT IT TOO HAS TURNED TO DUST.WE GRASP FOR HEALTH & BEAUTY ..... & AT LAST IT TURNS TO DUS AS WELL. WE GRASP FOR LIFE ITSELF ....."& UNTO DUST YO SHALL RETURN." GRASPING FOR WHAT IS NOT OURS TO TAKE, FIND THAT WE HAVE TO LET GO OF WHAT GOD ORIGINALLY INTENDED US TO HAVE.

THAT'S WHY ON THIS ASH WEDNESDAY WE DEAL WITH ASHES & THEIR STARK REMINDER OF THE DEATH WHICH WE HAVE BROUGHT ON OURSELVES. THE ASHES ARE A REMINDER OF OUR MORTALITY & OF OUR SIN. ..... AND IT IS RIGHT HERE THAT I HAVE A SUGGESTION TO MAKE..... LET'S REMEMBER NOT ONLY THAT WE ARE DUST. LET'S REMEMBER NOT JUST OUR SINS.

LET'S TURN FROM THE NEGATIVE TO THE POSITIVE & GENUINELY "RETURN TO THE LORD,"REMEMBERING THAT OUR GOD IS IN THE WORDS OF JOEL "GRACIOUS & MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER & ABOUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE." LET'S REMEMBER WHAT JESUS GAVE UP SO THAT WE MIGHT BE RAISED FROM THE DUST. ..... HE LAID HIS GLORY BY ..... YES, THERE IS *NO CROWN TODAY* TO SIGNIFY HIS KINGSHIP – THERE WILL BE *MANY CROWNS* TO CONFRONT US IN THE DAYS & WEEKS AHEAD. BUT FOR THIS DAY THE CROWN IS ABSENT -- ON PURPOSE! TODAY / ON THIS ASH WEDNESDAY / WE FOCUS ON THE GREAT REALITY THAT JESUS GAVE UP HIS CROWN --- HE LAID HIS GLORY BY IN ORDER TO BRING US BACK TO GOD!