REMEMBER ME IN YOUR KINGDOM

"WITH MANY CROWNS" -- THAT'S THE WAY WE HAVE SOUGHT TO SEE OUR SAVIOR THIS LENTEN SEASON – TO SEE THE CROWNS HE WORE, OR WEARS OR WILL WEAR TO ALL ETERNITY – THE CROWNS ALSO OF THOSE WHO OPPOSED THE WILL OF THE LORD & SOUGHT TO THWART HIS WILL – THE CROWNS THAT WILL ALL EVENTUALLY BE CAST DOWN BEFORE HIM. "WITH MANY CROWNS" WE HAVE SOUGHT TO SEE OUR SAVIOR THIS LENTEN SEASON – CROWNS THAT BEFIT A KING! ..... AND SO IT IS THAT WE HEAR HIM ADDRESSED ON THIS GOOD FRIDAY!

"JESUS, REMEMBER ME....IN YOUR KINGDOM!"

CROWNED WITH NO MORE THAN THORNS AT THE MOMENT -- & SPIKED HELPLESSLY TO THE CROSS THAT WOULD SOON SPELL HIS DEATH. MOCKINGLY JESUS IS HAILED AS A KING – BUT NO MORE AS *THE KING!*

"JESUS, REMEMBER ME .... IN YOUR KINGDOIM!"

HOW DESPERATE DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO PAY HOMAGE TO THIS KIND OF KING? OF ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE & OTHER IDEAS THAT MIGHT SEEK TO CLAIM A PERSON'S LOYALTY, THIS SEEMS THE MOST HOPELESS – CROWNED WITH NO MORE THAN THORNS AT THE MOMENT – SPIKED HELPLESSLY TO THE CROSS THAT WILL SOON SPELL HIS DEATH. HOW DESPERATE DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO PLEAD FOR A HEARING FROM THIS KIND OF KING?

WE DO, OF COURSE – QUITE REGULARLY & QUITE CONSISTENTLY WE PLEAD FOR A HEARING FROM THIS VERY KING – CROWNED WITH NO MORE THAN THORNS AT THE MOMENT – SPIKED HELPLESSLY TO THE CROSS THAT WILL SOON SPELL HIS DEATH.

"JESUS, REMEMBER ME ..... IN YOUR KINGDOM!"

PERHAPS THERE IS AN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION. *ARE WE REALLY THAT DESPERATE?* -- OR DO WE NEED TO BE NAILED TO AN ACCOMPANYING CROSS TO RECOGNIZE OUR DESPERATION?

WE DO HAVE ANOTHER CHOICE, OF COURSE, -- THE ONE CHOSEN BY THE OTHER THIEF ON THE CROSS – THE ONE CHOSEN IN THE BEGINNING BY ADAM & EVE – DUPLICATED BY THEIR FIRSTBORN SON, CAIN & COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF HUMAN BEINGS SINCE THEN. WE DO HAVE ANOTHER CHOICE – TO GO DOWN FIGHTING – TO ASSERT OUR OWN WILL – OUR OWN ARROGANCE – OUR OWN INDEPENDENCE, IF YOU PLEASE ---- & *OUR DAMNATION!*

"AND WE INDEED JUSTLY, FOR WE ARE RECEIVING THE DUE REWARD FOR OUR DEEDS, [PAUSE} – BUT THIS ONE HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG."

THAT'S JUST THE POINT, ISN'T IT? CHRIST FOR US – THE INNOCENT FOR THE GUILTY -- "THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD" – THE KING WHO LAID HIS GLORY BY & "BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS."

"JESUS, REMEMBER...."

THE THIEF CRIED OUT….. AND JESUS DID REMEMBER – HE SPOKE A SOVEREIGN WORD OF PARDON – THE KING'S DECREE THAT SETS ONE FREE.

"JESUS REMEMBER…."

AND JESUS DID! HE REMEMBER EVERYTHING HE HAD GIVEN UP FOR IT ALL TO COME TO THIS – THE HEAVENLY HONOR & GLORY HE LAID BY – "EQUALITY WITH GOD," THE BIBLE CALLS IT. HE REMEMBERED THE FOOTSTEPS HE TROD HERE ON EARTH – THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS HE FULFILLED – THE PROMISES WHICH WERE NOW COMING TO PASS: *SON OF DAVID – SHEPHERD-KING – VICTORIOUS HERO OF ISRAEL – REDEEMER OF ISRAEL* – AND ON & ON ---- GOD'S GREAT DELIVERANCE ONCE FORSHADOWED BY MOSES…… IN A WORLD OF FADING CROWNS & FLEETING GLORY, HE REMEMBERED THE PERMANENCE OF WHAT WAS BEING ACCOMPLISHED HERE! THE STAKES HERE ARE NOTHING LESS THAN ETERNAL! HE REMEMBERED THE CURSE THAT SIN HAD BROUGHT ON THE WORLD --- THE CURSE INVOLVING ANGRY THORNS & BROKEN LIVES --- & *DEATH* AT LAST.

"FOR YOU ARE DUST, & TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN."

IN A WORLD OF TYRANTS, HE REMEMBERED TO OBEY – "OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS!" AND NOW, CROWNED WITH THORNS & SPIKED TO A TREE, HE WAS ONCE AGAIN REMINDED OF WHY "HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH" & EVERYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE REMEMBERED!

"JESUS, REMEMBER ME!"

AND HE REMEMBERS YOU! THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT – THIS LENTENTIDE – THIS GOOD FRIDAY – THESE HYMNS – THESE SERVICES ….. THESE CROWNS. *YOUR KING* IS DYING HERE BECAUSE *HE REFUSES TO FORGET!*

HOW DESPERATE DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO *PAY HOMAGE* TO A KING LIKE THIS? LOOK AT YOURSELF – INSIDE & OUT – LOOK AT YOURSELF & REMEMBER WHERE YOU WOULD BE WITHOUT HIM:

"AND WE INDEED JUSTLY, FOR WE ARE RECEIVING THE JUST REWARD OF OUR DEEDS."

AND THEN REMEMBER WHERE YOU WILL BE FOREVER BECAUSE YOUR KING CHOSE TO REIGN FROM A CROSS.

"COME, YOU BLESSED OF MY FATHER; INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU!"

FOR YOU!