PILATE – A FADING CROWN

KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS" – DURING THIS LENTI
EASON WE WANT TO SEE THE MANY CROWNS JESUS WORE C
VEARS OR THE CROWNS THAT WERE CAST DOWN BEFORE HI
HERE WERE MANY WHO OPPOSED HIM & TRIED TO TAKE H
CROWN AWAY.THIS WEEK WE WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT PILATE
AUREL WREATH, THE COMMON ROMAN DESIGNATION C
ROMINENCE & AUTHORITY – A RATHER FRAGILE INSIGNIA WHI
OU REALLY TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT IT – A FADING CROWN.

I TRIED TO WARN HIM ABOUT THAT. HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN." wife

OR THIS SERVICE, THAT VOICE REPRESENTS PONTIUS PILAT
HE MAN DESIGNATED TO WEAR THAT SYMBOL OF ROMA
UTHORITY. IN JERUSALEM – THE LAUREL WREATH.

ERHAPS THERE IS A LESSON THERE, OR ONE THAT WAS MEANT TO E
LTHOUGH WE ROMANS TRIED TO BUILD AN EMPIRE THAT WOULD LA
OREVER, WHAT WE CHOSE AS A SYMBOL WAS NOT A CROWN BUT A WREAT
OMETHING FADING AND IMPERMANENT.

WORDS AND THE POINTS OF SPEARS ARE MADE OF META
HAT'S WHERE THE REAL POWER IS! CROWNS ARE MADE OF .....
EAVES.

ILATE KNEW THE THRILL OF VICTORY. HE HAD BEEN PART OF THE TIUMPH
ARADES IN ROME, THE RETURNING VICTORS WITH THEIR PARADE
APTURED SLAVES, CONQUERED SOLDIERS, EVEN VANQUISHED GENERA
ITH CHAINS ABOUT THEIR NECK FASTENED TO THEIR WAIST SO THAT THI
OULD NOT STAND UPRIGHT AS THEY TRUDGED BEHIND THE VICTOI
HARIOT AND HIS GLEAMING LEGIONS. PILATE KNEW THE SPOILS OF WA
ND THE THRILL OF VICTORY.

ND IN SUCH VICTORY PARADES, THE CONQUERING GENERA
VORE A CROWN.

ELL, NOT EXACTLY. I WATCHED AS THOSE PARADES WENT BY. AND I SA
OW IT TOOK PLACE. THE LAUREL WREATH WAS NOT PLACED ON TI
ONQUERING GENERAL'S HEAD AS HE RODE IN HIS CHARIOT. IT WAS HEI
VER HIS HEAD BY A SERVANT CHOSEN ESPECIALLY FOR THAT TASK.

ELD ALOFT, THE BETTER FOR THE CROWD TO SEE, AN
ECOGNIZE SUCH A PROMINENT HERO.

ES, BUT MORE. DURING THE WHOLE PARADE, THE SERVANT WHO HELD TI
ROWN ABOVE THE CONQUEREOR'S HEAD WOULD KEEP REPEATING IN H
AR, "REMEMBER, YOU ARE ONLY HUMAN. REMEMBER, YOU ARE ONI
UMAN. REMEMBER, YOU ARE ONLY HUMAN."

FADING CROWN. "YOU ARE DUST, AND TO DUST YOU SHAI
ETURN!"

ES, PILATE, REMEMBER THAT! A FADING CROWN! THE POWER YOU WOUI
IELD IS NOT ABSOLUTE, NOT YOURS BY RIGHT, AND NOT ETERNA
REMEMBER, YOU ARE ONLY HUMAN."

ND THE ONE FACING PONTIUS PILATE AT THIS PARTICUAR TIM
N JERUSALEM.....

..... WAS MORE THAN "ONLY HUMAN."

)ID PILATE REALIZE THAT?

IE SHOULD HAVE. HE ASKED ALL THE RIGHT QUESTIONS, EVEN FINALLY TH
MOST FAMOUS ONE: "WHAT IS TRUTH?" --- HE ASKED IT, BUT HE NEV
BOTHERED TO WAIT FOR AN ANSWER.

BUT IF HE HAD, WHAT MIGHT PILATE HAVE HEARD? IT WOUI
HAVE STARTED WITH A FAMILIAR PHRASE.

REMEMBER, YOU ARE ONLY HUMAN."

JESUS, THE SERVANT, REMINDING THE CONQUERING GOVERNO
HOLDING THE WREATH, AS IT WERE, ABOVE PILATE'S HEA

REMEMBER, YOU ARE ONLY HUMAN ....BUT I AM NOT!! I WEA
A CROWN NOT OF LEAVES, BUT OF EVERLASTING GLORY. ANI
SEEK TO SHARE THAT WITH YOU & ALL WHO HEAR MY VOIC

THAT'S THE TRUTH!

TRIED TO WARN HIM AS THE TRIAL PROGRESSED: "HAVE NOTHING TO I
WITH THAT RIGHTEOUS MAN. FOR I HAVE SUFFERED MUCH IN A DREA
BECAUSE OF HIM."

ROMAN JUSTICE WAS NOT AFFECTED BY SOMETHING
ETEHEREAL AS DREAMS, I SUSPECT.

BUT ROMAN POWER WAS SYMBOLIZED BY SOMETHING AS IMPERMANENT AS
CROWN OF LEAVES. "LEAVES WITHER, AND FLOWERS FADE." YOU'
RECOGNIZE THE WORDS, I THINK.

YES, THEY COME FROM OUR OWN SCRIPTURES – WORDS
FAMILIAR AS, "DO NOT AMASS FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES O
EARTH, WHERE MOTH & RUST CORRUPT, AND THIEVES BREAK
AND STEAL."

THOSE ARE HIS WORDS, ARE THEY NOT?

YES, AND THEY SERVE AS A WARNING ABOUT THE VERY KIND O
THING YOU TRIED TO TELL YOUR HUSBAND – THE TEMPTATIO
FACING ALL OF US WHO ARE "ONLY HUMAN" TO REACH FO
CROWNS, TO SEEK AUTHORITY IN THINGS THAT ULTIMATELY AI
DOOMED TO FAIL.

LIKE POWER?

YES, IN WHATEVER FORM IT TAKES, FROM THE SCHOOLYAI
BULLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST – FROM TI
NEIGHBORHOOD STREET CORNER TO THE CORPORA
BOARDROOM – FROM GOSSIP AT THE WATER COOLER TO TABLO
BLANDER – FROM THE JAIL HOUSE TO THE WHITE HOUSE
FADING CROWNS!

FADING CROWNS. LIKE MONEY.

MONEY, GREEN .... LIKE LAUREL LEAVES..... AND NEVER MUC
MORE PERMANENT. "YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU," WE KE
TELLING OURSELVES --- THE WORD OF GOD TELLS US THAT TOO
BUT WE STILL TRY! LIKE EVE AND ADAM --- REACHING, GRASPIN