

SERMON STUDY NOTES

7th November 2021
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

The Victor's Crown or the Crown of Thorns?

1. Last week Mike gave us 4 different definitions of the gospel. All of which were incomplete in some way. The bible says 'we walk the path, complete the race and then receive a crown'. (James 1:12 Rev 2:10, 2 Tim 4:8).
What would you consider to be a good definition of the Gospel? What are some of the things that could stop you from running your race of faith all the way to the finish line?
2. How can we give of our spiritual, physical, & mental strength to ensure that we complete the race like a champion?
3. When you think of seeing Jesus face to face, what thoughts come to your mind? Is this an event that brings joy to your heart and mind, or does it cause you to be fearful?
4. When Jesus was crucified they mocked Him & placed a **crown of thorns** on His head. Here's the King of Kings & Lord of Lords, being spat upon, humiliated & shamed. How would you have felt if you had been Jesus at this time? What would you have done?

5. Satan doesn't fight fairly. We also may be falsely accused. Can you share about a time when that happened to you?
6. Sometimes we make bad choices, get ourselves in trouble and can be labelled. This can be especially difficult in a small town where people don't forget. We may never escape that humiliation. Can you recall a situation where this occurred?
7. People can get caught up in addiction as a means of trying to mask or escape the pain of shame. Others may feel a need to prove themselves, but when they fail, discouragement and depression set in. Discuss
8. Moses felt rejected by his family as a child. Then later when he tried to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, he killed a man and had to flee for his life. He felt like a failure, until an encounter with God restored him to his real purpose as leader of Israel. Discuss
9. We also can exchange our "crown of shame" for a "Victor's Crown" ... Mentally visualise removing that crown of thorns; those things that have caused you shame. Then picture Jesus putting the Victor's Crown on your head, at the end of life's journey. You can be like Moses, as you put the past behind you and move forward in a close relationship with God.
10. Pray for each other.