



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

“No Cross, No Crown”

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Doctors are amazing. A well-trained, experienced doctor can discern a lot about you just using his senses – observing the way you walk, listening to your heart, feeling your joints, even smelling your breath. However, even the best doctors sometimes need to see what’s happening under the surface to figure out what’s going on. This might mean exploratory surgery or imaging like an X-ray, MRI or sonogram.



People are very quick – and often adept – at making judgments, but our perceptions aren’t always accurate. The Bible tells of Simon, who, seated at the table with Jesus, was shocked when a woman who had lived a sinful life began to weep at Jesus’ feet. Simon concluded that Jesus couldn’t have been a prophet, because a prophet would have known what kind of woman she was and would have pushed her away. As it turned out, Jesus knew much more about who the woman was than Simon did!

Now, Jesus pointed out that the woman’s sins had been forgiven (see Luke 7:47), but let’s be clear: Even if she had still been living in her sin, there’s nothing in Jesus’ biography to suggest that he would have pushed her away. The very reason he came, after all, was to seek and save those who are lost, not to avoid contact with them.

But back to my point: We, like Simon, may be quick to judge people, based on their reputation or on what can we see of their lives. Like Simon, we might also think that they don’t belong in Jesus’ presence, and we may question his judgment when he doesn’t rebuke or reject people whom we judge as sinful. Or, perhaps, we might find ourselves on the other side of that equation: People still see us for what we were or judge us on the basis of what they see, even though there’s so much more to the whole story than meets the eye.

In judgment, we must strive to be like Jesus, and start from a place of love and redemption. And, like Jesus, we need to rely on the Holy Spirit to show us what’s going on in the inside, rather than being so quick to judge based on the surface of things.

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
(1 Samuel 16:7)

Thanks for Praying!

We are so blessed by your prayers! Please continue to intercede with us for:

- a multiplication of our resources and effectiveness,
- summer ministry opportunities in our neighborhood,
- a season of refreshing for our ministry team, and
- fresh laborers with a passion for our mission field.







Good weather = a great opportunity to meet our neighbors!

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

We really do love hearing from you! Every message and phone call helps us keep going!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?

The saying, "laughter is the best medicine" applies to the heart. Laughing causes the body's blood vessels to relax, making it easier for blood to flow through them. As a result, the heart doesn't have to work as hard to pump blood through the body.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

(Psalm 28:7)



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