



THE CROSS and CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

a publication of Highway Mission Tabernacle and Resurrection Life Church, Philadelphia, PA

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"Brothers and sisters, pray for us." | 1 Thessalonians 5:25



If you were to describe the picture above this paragraph, you might say that it's a photo of a spoon inside of a cup that's on a saucer. You might say that, that is, if you haven't seen the picture at the end of this newsletter.

We humans are constantly making judgments and assumptions based on what we can see. That isn't necessarily a bad thing, and, certainly, it's something that we have to do a lot of the time. The thing is, our judgments and assumptions can sometimes be very wrong.

I'm sure you remember the account of the woman who washed Jesus' feet when he was eating at the house of Simon the Pharisee. Simon, looking on, concluded that Jesus could not have been a prophet, because a prophet would have seen the woman for who she was and pushed her away. As it turns out, he was wrong in his assessment of both Jesus and the woman. Jesus showed that he was a prophet when told Simon what kind of woman she actually was: One who had been forgiven and who, as a result, loved God much. At the same time, he exposed Simon for who he was: Someone with only a little love for God. This was a stinging rebuke for a Pharisee, a member of a sect of priests who viewed themselves as the holiest of the holy.

In Matthew 7, Jesus cautions us that we should not judge, lest we, ourselves, be judged. He's pointing out that the judgments which we make, based on our limited knowledge, reveal as much about our own hearts as they do about the hearts of the people we are judging. As my sister used to tell her children, when we point a finger at someone else, we're pointing three other fingers back at ourselves.

When we look at others, let's practice seeing the best in them;— if not for who they are, for who they can be, under Christ.

Love does not dishonor others. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4,7)

Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!

Thank you for praying in the new year with us! Please continue agreeing with us for:

- a fresh word from God during our month of prayer and fasting,
- new avenues of ministry and collaboration that God wants to open this year,
- more people called to and excited about ministry in Tioga/Nicetown, and
- God's continued grace and supply for everything that goes into operating the academy and the church.







Winter weather exposes our historical building's many challenges.

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.)

Please do keep in touch! We're always delighted when we hear from you, to share your news or prayer requests – or just to chat!

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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?

It was a fork, not a spoon.

People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.
(I Samuel 16:7)



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