



Crown of Thorns

Summer 2006

Isa.55:13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign [that] shall not be cut off.

I saw this verse, and thought, "I'd like to get rid of my thorns. They bother me." So, I decided to look into thorns. Thorns come in many varieties. They can be small fuzzy hair like pins, that seem impossible to find once one gets under your skin. Or they can be as big and as large and powerful as thorns that were once used the way we use nails. In the Bible, thorns represent destinations, finances, and people/contracts. Thorns and briars are a deterrent to keep you from going where you ought to be going.

Prov. 22:5 Thorns [and] snares [are] in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

Ho. 2:6 Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.

Isa.27:4 Fury [is] not in me: who would set the briars [and] thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together.

Prov. 15:19 The way of the slothful [man is] as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous [is] made plain.

We see here that thorns and briars are in the path to keep us from seeing the path, keep us from progressing, and that God is able to get through them by burning them. Also, a thorn could be something that is self inflicted such as laziness.

Isa. 10:17 And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briars in one day;

Jesus not only took our sins on the cross, but he also took the thorns that prevent us from following the path. You don't have to look for the

path, all you have to do is keep your eyes on Him, and when the path makes a turn, you will too, because your eyes are on him. Thank you God, for sending us Your Son, Jesus, who is the Light for a Fire, and your Holy One for a Flame, who has already burned up and destroyed the thorns in our paths.

Finances. There are thorns in my wallet, too.

Gen. 3:17+18 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed [is] the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat [of] it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

This says that because Adam and Eve did what God told them not to do, one of the curses that we would have to endure would be that it would be hard to make a living. Thorns and thistles make it hard to farm.

Jeremiah 12:13 They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, [but] shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

Here's the good news!

John 19:2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put [it] on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

He already bore the thorns. It is finished. He wore the crown of thorns, so you don't have to have that pain in your head anymore. You don't have to look for the path, all you have to do is keep your eyes on Him, and when He makes a turn you will too, because your eyes are on Him! You don't have to worry about your finances anymore, because He already took that pain for you.

The opposite of thorns is fruit.

Gal. 5:22+23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

This is your check and balance system. Whatever it is, it is either producing one or the other, thorns or fruit. Fruit is good, thorns are bad. It is particularly easy to see this in other people.

Matt. 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

This was speaking directly about false prophets, however it does apply to all relationships. Again we see that,

Luke 6:44+45 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. Mark 4:18+19 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Micah 7:4 The best of them [is] as a brier: the most upright [is sharper] than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen [and] thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

But, have no fear, because

Micah 7:19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Whoo Hoo!!!

It was our responsibility to remove the thorns.

Num. 33:55 But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them [shall be] pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.

A prick in my eye, that would make me cry.  
Thorn in my side, where have I heard that before?

Judges 2:3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be [as thorns] in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.

Josh. 23:13 Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out [any of] these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

This was a task we were supposed to accomplish (but usually didn't). Get rid of unfruitful people in our lives. He didn't do that for us, in the old testament. When you remove the thorns in your life, be careful, wear gloves, because:

2 Sam. 23 6+7 But [the sons] of Belial [shall be] all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands: But the man [that] shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the [same] place.

It can be done! You can do it! Now, please don't go and kill anybody, but you can put them out of your life. You can find a way to get out of an unfruitful contract.

Eze. 28:24 And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor [any] grieving thorn of all [that are] round about them, that despised them; and they shall know that I [am] the Lord GOD.

Eze. 2:6 And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns [be] with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they [be] a rebellious house.

In the old testament it was a command that we were to get rid of thorns. However, Now we see Jesus, and they have put a crown of thorns on His

head. He took our thorns. He wore the crown. No longer does God say He won't do it, He did it! So here's the thing. You won't get in trouble if you follow the Commandments, go ahead and get rid of the thorns yourself. But if you are unable to remove your thorns, Jesus will help you.

John 19:2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put [it] on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

Here's something interesting. God said don't bother sowing the seed among those who are unfruitful.

Jer. 4:3 For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

Mat. 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Are you giving something good to someone who does not appreciate it? Well, in the profound words of my Daddy, "Stop it".

Luke 8:14, And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

There are 15 different Strong's #s translated into thorn/thorns/brier/briers. The definitions of these numbers make it easy to see how thorns can represent people/contracts, destinations and finances. Some of the words which could apply to finances are wild growth of weeds, drive down, fasten, hook, and pierce. Some of the words which could apply to destinations would be hedge and ring for the nose. Some of the words which could represent people/contracts are words which are commonly used today in slang. They are prick, scrub, trash, and sting. Also represented are boil up, bodily annoyance and disability which would represent health. If you were able to remove the thorn from your foot, you would. Right?

Paul said:

2 Corinth 12:7-9 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

If you think that you are more special than anyone else, Paul was here to tell you that Jesus died for everyone. We all received of that gift equally. When you start thinking that you are better than everyone, be careful. That might just be a messenger of Satan. To combat that attitude, remember that it is the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that put you where you are today.

I think it is interesting to note that the "crown of thorns" is noted in three gospels. It is not recorded in the book of Luke.

Matt 27:29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put [it] upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Mark 15:17 And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his [head],

John 19:2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put [it] on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

We know now, that one of the many wonderful things which Jesus did for us was that he took the thorns. He is replacing them with the fir tree, and the myrtle tree. Huh?

Isa. 55:13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign [that] shall not be cut off.

He is replacing your thorns with the thing that will beautify and glorify his sanctuary.

Isa. 60:13 The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

What started this study was Isa. 55:13. I thought "I'd like to get rid of my thorns." But, as I continued the study I realized that He is replacing them with something else. So I thought I'd better be careful and figure out what He was replacing them with, so that I didn't get a board for a splinter. Here is what I found out. The fir tree is used to designate a path, create a hedge for protection, or wall to hide an ugly but necessary area. Myrtle is used to beautify. He will help us find our path, protect us, cover for us, and beautify us. God's peace is beautiful. Instead of pain and difficulty, God will give beauty and protection.

#### Testimony:

There was a landlord who had a tenant. In the tenant's family the man became disabled and was unable to receive any income. The wife worked as hard as she could, but with the increased medical bills, she just couldn't make ends meet. They didn't pay their rent for five months. The landlord couldn't allow himself to continue to support his tenant's family, because he had his own family to support. He contacted a lawyer and started proceedings for them to be evicted. After reading this paper and some discussion he decided that thorns were in the way of his tenants finances. He prayed for her to be released from her thorns. (Thereby releasing him from his thorns) The next day the tenant received payment for commission, enough money to pay all the rent due.

Jesus died for the sins of the world.  
 Jesus took the stripes for our healing.  
 Jesus wore the crown of thorns for our release.

By his stripes we are healed.  
 By his thorns we are released.

He has released the thorns, He is replacing them with fir and myrtle trees. He has released you from the thing that is preventing you from being where you ought to be, having what you ought to

have, and being with hurtful people. He is replacing them with direction, finances and healthy relationships.

We need release from the thorns that are keeping our wonderful America from the purpose God has for her.

Dear Heavenly Father, Please bless those who need their thorns removed. Please remove and replace the thorns with direction, finances, and healthy relationships. Please bless them with protection and beauty. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything. Pray about everything, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. Rosie Revised.

Rosie Ebaugh Thompson  
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BRAZIL 2006\_\_\_\_\_

God opened the doors for me to go to Brazil, again this year. It truly was a blessing to me. I trust it was also a blessing to the people at the conference.

I taught on Parthia, and the comparison of the laws, that is, the difference of Noah's laws, and Moses' laws and Jesus laws, and James laws. Then I did the Christmas lesson, on Joseph and Mary, and John the Baptist. A few times I did short topics.

Of course, I had to work with a translator. That made everything take twice as long. I taught 5 times. There were about 70 people there.

Paulo rented an elementary school. He rented 50 mattresses. They were foam pads, maybe 4 in thick. The first room was our class room. The next room was the children's play room. The next room was the women's dormitory. The next room was the men's dormitory. After that there were rooms set for a family of parents, and children. Bath down the hall.

We ate 3 times a day, in the school dining room.  
4 meetings a day, for 4 days.  
The 5<sup>th</sup> day, some of them came back, and cleaned  
the school. In the dining room, they shot the  
floor, plain ole concrete, with a garden hose. And  
sprayed soap, and worked the brooms back and  
forth, really hard.

I stayed in the home of Paulo and Rejane. We  
walked back and forth to the school, about 2  
blocks.

It is surely good to be home!!!!!!!!!! Betty

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