

## Saving Grace Daily Devotion

Friday, November 20

Devotion on Hymn: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

**Scripture:** Revelations 19:12-16

*His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*

**HISTORY:** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" was written by Matthew Bridges, an Anglican clergyman who at age 48 converted to Roman Catholicism and at age 51 wrote this hymn. Bridges thought of his hymn as a sermon in song, based on Revelation 19:12. It is the one hymn written by Bridges to still be sung widely today. The hymn was set to the melody, DIADEMATA (which is Greek for "crowns"), by George J. Elvey in 1968.

Bridges wrote six verses, each celebrating some aspect of God, such as kingship, love, and peace. Some years later, Godfrey Thring, an Anglican clergyman, thought that the hymn needed a verse celebrating the resurrection, so he wrote the one that begins, "Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave" — and he wrote additional verses as well. The hymn as found in most hymnals today includes verses by both Bridges and Thring.

**REFLECTION:** One of the most effective and simple costume changes is to put on a hat. When you walk off stage and return wearing a top hat, you are suddenly a different person. A "man of many hats" is someone who can be a different person in different contexts or crowds. This hymn declares that we are to crown our Lord with many crowns, but this does not mean that Jesus is a "man of many hats." Christ was not simply a prophet, He was not simply the carpenter's son, and He was not simply human, nor simply divine. Rather, this call to "crown him with many crowns" is a simple and yet profound declaration that Christ is many things, and everything. He is Lord of all, to be crowned for many things that all add up to Him being Savior of the world. Each crown represents a different aspect of who Christ is – Lord of life, Lord of love, Lord of years, Lord of heaven, the Lamb upon the throne. Christ is King, Servant, Lamb, Shepherd, and we celebrate this all-encompassing, paradoxical nature of our Savior by crowning Him the Lord of all.

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Savior and King... You truly are everything, and we celebrate You for all you provide. May we look to you as Lord of all and praise You for all the many crowns you don which give us the hope of eternal life with You in Your heavenly kingdom. In Your name we pray. AMEN

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