

Ascension of the Lord – May 9/10, 2018

– Reflection

The importance of the feast we celebrate tonight/today really began at the dawn of Creation in the Garden of Eden. In the story told in *Genesis*, God crowned His days of making the heavens and the earth and all that lived and moved and had being with the glory of the human. Male and female He made them. Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, and have dominion over all that is. In the story, God planted them to bloom and grow and be innocently happy in the beautiful garden, the Paradise He made for them. God looked upon all that He made and found it very good.

But the human - then and now - would prove to be an unworthy steward, undeserving of the crown as the pinnacle of Creation. The human was not satisfied with all God's gifts; not willing to keep God's word; not content to be a creature rather than a god. And so man ate of the forbidden fruit of rebellion and instead of rising to new heights of glory, fell ... fell into a dark hole of shame and disgrace.

Still, though man had deserted God, God would not desert man and, in the fullness of time, God came as man to restore what was lost by our greed, to repay the price of our sin, to raise what our shame had abased.

The Son of God was raised upon a tree of shame and humiliation to show man what true love looked like. The Son of God was lowered into the tomb to show the death that man's disobedience welcomed. The

Son of God was raised from the dead to show that God had broken the stranglehold of death on man. And, the Son of God ascended to the Father, to the new Paradise to lift up once more the human dignity that had been so tarnished in Eden's mutiny.

This night/day, we have been given a second chance to live up to the call to be children of God and heirs to a Kingdom, a second chance for what God intended for us all along: to be the crown jewel in the work of Creation.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that we not tarnish the crown once again.