**Title:** A Crown a to Cast **Text:** Luke 6:40  
*The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.*

**Rev. 4:** **1-11***🡨READ*

**INTRODUCTION**

* **DEFINITION**: *the state or quality of excelling or being exceptionally good; extreme merit; superiority*
* --- Vince Lombardi [coaching career record: 105-35-6]🡪*The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to* ***their commitment to excellence****, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.*
* The world has had its full of flashy do nothings. Run well and then fall off the grid. Talk a great talk, but never convert that story into a **great walk**. Our commitment to Christ must be one of EXCELLENCE. Our passion, our ambition for the kingdom of God must not be diluted by other affairs. **Give God only one thing, YOUR BEST.**
* It is our best work that God wants, not the dregs of our exhaustion. I think he must prefer quality to quantity. --*George MacDonald*
* ***The gospel call is a high calling!* <What it means, What it is like! Character, quality>**

1. **Vision of An Excellent MASTER – vs. 1-3**

* The greatest inspiration for life comes from Christ. **Keep your eyes on Jesus**!
* Ch. 1:17 “saw him fell dead at…”

Modernists PRESENT Christ as a weakling. [Modern culture has had broad impact in reinventing Christ…]

* 'Jesus of the week' -- 'do u have an image that u think sum the 'Ol Christ up'---blasphemous
* Michael Moore --Jesus was gay--announced at a catholic university to laughter--dummies caught off guard BC he was actually serious.

He is presented in the gospel as a **MASTER of quality:**

* **Exceptional** ---never a man spake like this man. Joh 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?
* Good does all things **well**!  
  **Mark 7: 37**  And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak  
  Savior of quality--- John 2:10 u have saved the best for last!
* Behold **the man**!
* He **handpicked** his disciples. (A Master at Work)
* Zeal of thine house---**he could clean house!**
* I do always those things that please the father

🡪Feet Like a brass, eyes like fire, Takes the book, one foot on land one one sea

1. **Vision of An Excellent Man – vs. 4-11** <5:8 “hath redeemed us…”>

* Amidst overwhelming pressures to decrease, dilute, compromise, and change course, we need a renewed commitment to EXCELLENCE.
* JABEZ was more honorable than All his brethren. (I Chr. 4:9) The only comparison that counts, is with CHRIST!

**Eph 4:13** *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man****, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ****:*

**Do** **I Favor My Savior?**

1Co 1:10 *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be* ***perfectly joined together*** *in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

2Co 13:11 ¶ Finally, brethren, farewell. **Be perfect**, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

1Pe 5:10 ¶ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, **make you perfect**, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

🡪A DISCIPLE in scripture is not merely student of what his master teaches, but is an apprentice committed to become what is teacher is.

***Quality is never an accident****; it is always the result of* ***high intention****, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.--William A Foster*

A Holy Ambition—God promised it --- I want it!

Caleb, 80 years of age—“Give me this mountain!”

Revelation is an EXCELLENT Vision and John the Revelator had a **VISION for EXCELLENCE**.

All the AWESOME scenes of the book provoke those that HUNGER and THIRST after righteousness to a godly Jealousy. The devil has been so successful in distracting us by what we DON’T know, when all that is most important is RIGHT there! When God doesn’t always tells us outright what it means, HE IS MOST CONCERNED WITH WHAT IT IS **LIKE**!!

🡪Ch. 22 Water of Life, Tree of Life,

🡪Ch. 21 A Vision of Jerusalem Coming Down as a BRIDE adorned!

🡪Ch. 20 The Devil Bound Up

🡪Ch. 19 Hallelujah Chorus! Marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife hath made herself ready.

🡪Ch. 13-18 GOD’s Final Say--Judgment

🡪Ch. 12 Dragon Waits for Manchild, Attacks Woman, Attacks remnant of seed!

🡪Ch. 4 **“I want a crown to cast!”**

* + Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions (SVM). First established in 1886 by the evangelist Dwight L. Moody successfully appealed to America's "**best and brightest**" to enter the foreign mission field. Having great credit in the result that America by the 1920’s was responsible for 60% of the world’s foreign missionaries. (from 5,000 to 30,000 growth, but today still not much more than 40,000)
  + Adoniram Judson was sleeping at an inn, hearing the person next door expiring violently; the next morning he inquired as to his anonymous neighbor's health or outcome. The clerk answered that Mr. Eames had indeed died. The shock of finding it was his own friend – and that Eames had led Judson away from the Christian faith into skepticism, but was now dead – brought Judson back to the faith of his youth. Judson's conversion occurred while attending the [Andover Theological Seminary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andover_Theological_Seminary). In 1808, Judson "made a solemn dedication of himself to God”.
  + Hudson Taylor was a British missionary to China in the late 19th century. He didn’t just want to go and tell the gospel story to a group of people; he wanted to embody the life of Jesus in front of China. This desire led Taylor to shun the standard Western garb he came over with in favor of donning the suit-and-tie of the Chinese world: the kimono.
    1. AT 17 he was saved, he began studying the languages of Mandarin, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin.
    2. Taylor was able to preach in several varieties of Chinese, including Mandarin, Chaozhou, and the Wu dialects of Shanghai and Ningbo. The last of these he knew well enough to help prepare an edition of the New Testament written in it.
    3. Met and married his wife on the mission field.
    4. *If I had a thousand pounds China should have it—if I had a thousand lives, China should have them. No! Not China, but Christ. Can we do too much for Him? Can we do enough for such a* ***precious Saviour*?**