

MEMORIAL DAY SERMON

“Remembering Jesus”

Matthew 20:28

While turning through the pages of a devotional book, I paused to read the story of an American soldier who had served with valor in the Korean War. The Lieutenant in the “outfit” was saved by one of his men during a battle. It happened in a little hut in a certain village when the soldier confronted and killed an enemy soldier who was about to shoot the Lieutenant. The soldier then lost his life in the battle. Every time the Lieutenant went through that village, he would stop and go into that hut and stand with bowed head. On one occasion, someone asked him why he did that. The Lieutenant told the story of the bravery of that soldier who had lost his life in the process of saving the Lieutenant’s life. And then the Lieutenant explained, “Every time I am in this area, I go into that hut just so I can remember him and what he did for me.”

No doubt, many American soldiers could tell similar stories about saving a life or about being saved by a friend. Memorial Day is such a great time to remember. Remembering is a vital part of living the abundant life.

Memorial Day can also be a spring-board to remember Jesus Christ and what He did for us when He willingly gave His life for us. In one powerful statement in Matthew 20:28, Jesus summed up His entire life when He said: “The Son of Man (Jesus) came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many.”

- I. How inspiring it is to remember what Jesus has done and is doing for all of us!
 - A. He is ministering to us. The risen Lord is with the Father “making intercession for us.” And He sent the Holy Spirit to help us. He is ministering to us, not just in some general ways, but right at the point of our personal need. He came not to be ministered to but to minister!

I may not know every person’s needs. But Jesus knows. He cares! He ministers! He helps! Establish a positive relationship with Him and allow Him to help you.
 - B. Jesus died for us – gave His life for us. “He gave His life a ransom.” Sin separates us from God. We cannot save ourselves from sin. But the perfect Son of God came to save us – to bring to us the divine offer of salvation and the abundant life. He paid the price for us. He took our place. He became the ransom for us.
- II. What should be our response to the love of God fully revealed in Jesus Christ?
 - A. We should remember Jesus with praise and gratitude.

- B. We should accept Him as our Savior and Lord – accept His gift of salvation and abundant life.
- C. We should commit our life without reservation to Jesus.
- D. We should serve Him always.

The challenge of our text brings to mind the words of a beautiful hymn. The hymn writer – overwhelmed by the love of God for us – places these words in the heart and on the lips of our Lord:

I gave my life for thee,
My precious blood I shed
That thou might'st ransomed be,
And quickened from the dead;
I gave, I gave my life for thee,
What hast thou given for me?

Our answer to this soul-searching question must be personal – no one can answer for us. Our personal answer should surely be:

All to Jesus I surrender.
All to Him I freely give.
I will ever live and trust Him,
And in His presence daily live.

AMEN! MAY IT BE SO!

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