

Series: Memorial Day

# IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

1 COR. 11:23-26; MATT. 26:36-46

Text:

Introduction:

We set aside time in America each year to remember some of the important dates of our history. Tomorrow is one of those days: Memorial Day. On May 30, 1868, our country observed the first day memorializing those who had fallen in battle during the Civil War. It was called “Decoration Day” at that time. In the few short years following the Civil War dozens of local observances honoring fallen Civil War soldiers had sprung up in communities across the country. Most were done by decorating gravesites with flowers.

Although many cities claim the honor, the official birthplace of Memorial Day is Waterloo, New York. On May 5, 1868, General, John A. Logan, in his role as commander-in-chief of a veteran’s organization called The Grand Army of the Republic, introduced a proclamation that “Decoration Day” be observed nationally. On May 30 of the same year it was observed and the date was chosen specifically because it was not the anniversary of a battle. The term “Memorial Day” was first used in 1882 and the observances were expanded to include all who had been lost in the time

of war. The day became more widely observed following World War II and was declared a national holiday in 1967. The National Holiday Act of 1971 moved the official observance of Memorial Day to the last Monday in May.

We read in our text that we are to remember what the Lord did for us.

### **1 Corinthians 11:24-25**

*<sup>24</sup> And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. <sup>25</sup> After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*

Note Matthew 26:26-46

### **Matthew 26:26-46**

*<sup>26</sup> And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. <sup>27</sup> And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; <sup>28</sup> For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. <sup>29</sup> But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. <sup>30</sup> And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. <sup>31</sup> Then*

*saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.<sup>32</sup> But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.<sup>33</sup> Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.<sup>34</sup> Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.<sup>35</sup> Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.<sup>36</sup> Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.<sup>37</sup> And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.<sup>38</sup> Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.<sup>39</sup> And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.<sup>40</sup> And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?<sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.<sup>42</sup> He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.<sup>43</sup> And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.<sup>44</sup> And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time,*

*saying the same words.* <sup>45</sup> *Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.* <sup>46</sup> *Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.*

Note: The Sacrifice of the Lord

For most part of the Gospel accounts, we see the charming side of Jesus - His power to heal the sick; His compassion for the weak and poor; the authority He has when He preached the Word of God. We don't often see Jesus struggling in sorrow.

Today, we're looking at another side of Jesus - at the Garden of Gethsemane.

## **1. WE SEE THE LORD IN SORROW**

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.

The Lord took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and the Bible tell us that he ***“began to be sorrowful and very heavy.”***

Then He said to them in vs. 38:

### **Matthew 26:38**

<sup>38</sup> Then saith he unto them, **My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death**: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Why was the Lord so sorrowful?

Because He knew what was about to happen

Death by Crucifixion was designed to produce the greatest degree of SHAME, and to inflict the maximum amount of PAIN, for the longest possible period of TIME. Jesus knew what was about to happen.

Not only do we see the Lord in Sorrow but also:

## **2. WE SEE THE LORD IN STRUGGLE**

Remember:

The triumph can't be had without the struggle.

Not the prayer the Lord prayed:

### **Matthew 26:39**

<sup>39</sup> And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me**: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

We see the struggle.

The human part of Him will cry out against such a pain, yet His spirit longs to obey His Father's will. The flesh does not want to go to the cross, but His spirit wants to accomplish the Father's plan to save the world.

The Lord experienced such a struggle, and in His struggle He was honest to the Father. There was no covering up or acting tough. What we see in Jesus was total honesty – He shares what is really on His heart! So don't act tough... Jesus didn't. We need to share our struggles with God.

To stand strong, we need to pray.

That's why the Lord said to Peter:

***Matthew 26:41***

*<sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

The Lord gives us the formula – watch and pray.

THIS WAS MORE THAN JUST A PHYSICAL STRUGGLE, it was a spiritual struggle. Jesus wasn't thinking just about the nails piercing through His hands and feet. In His death, He would be taking on the sin of all humanity.

Note:

**Isaiah 53:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.* <sup>6</sup> *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

The weight upon His shoulders wasn't physical weight - it was the weight of your sins and mine! In plain words, His struggle in the early hours of the morning in Gethsemane is our fault! Our sins and the sins of humanity before and after us sent Him to the cross!

Someone stated it this way:

"The final encounter of the battle has begun. As Jesus looks at the city of Jerusalem, He sees what the disciples can't... He sees the Evil One preparing for the final encounter... Hell is breaking loose... History records it as a battle of the Jews against Jesus. It wasn't.... It was a battle of God against Satan. AND JESUS KNEW IT. He knew that before the war was over, he would be taken captive. He knew that before victory would come defeat. He knew that before the throne would come the cup. He knew that before the light of Sunday would come the blackness of Friday."

Note how did the Lord responded:

### **3. WE SEE THE LORD IN SUBMISSION**

Note the first time the Lord prayed:

#### **Matthew 26:39**

<sup>39</sup> And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.**

Then when He prayed the second time:

#### **Matthew 26:42**

<sup>42</sup> He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.**

However the only way sins debt could be satisfied was for the Lord to go to the cross, and the Lord accepts that.

This is a classic example of submission - doing the will of God, not your own.

In Luke's account of this note:



**Luke 22:43**

*<sup>43</sup> And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.*

Isn't that great? He obeys the Father... He accepts to do what the Father says, and the Father provides what he needs most - strength! What Jesus needed, He received graciously from the Father.

Today we can experience the same.

When we do His will he will give us the strength needed to complete it.

Note 1 Corinthians 10:13:

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

*<sup>13</sup> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

We see lastly:

## 4. THE LORD'S STRENGTH IN SUBMISSION

### **Matthew 26:45-46**

*<sup>45</sup> Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.*

These are words of determination. He is now very sure. He is going to face the cross and walk towards it.

What happened next? Judas came straight to Jesus, and gave Him the kiss... The officers grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.

Jesus was not some poor, helpless victim, caught up in circumstances beyond his control. Jesus freely, willingly, deliberately took the journey to the cross. He was not forced into it by His Father, and of course, not by Jewish leaders or the Roman government.

Note the Lord's words in John 10:

### **John 10:17-18**

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. <sup>18</sup> No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

The battle was won in Gethsemane.

Through His submission to the Father's will, Jesus had the strength to get through His final days before the battle was won.

Close:

Jesus went through a great sorrow, a great struggle but triumphed through total submission to the Father.

Remember:

That your life has been bought with a very high price, treasure it. Offer it to God and serve Him with all you've got. Consider what you can do FOR Him today.

The Lord set us a good example – watch and pray.

You want to stay strong and live a victorious life? PRAY. The Lord will come to you and strengthen you.

For some, you need to accept Jesus as your Saviour. Look closely at the life of Jesus and all that He has said, and you'd realise that He came only for one purpose - to seek you, and save you. How? By dying on your behalf, to pay the penalty for our sin (our rebellion against God).