

Never Forget

Text : **Joshua 3: 13-4: 7 ; Matthew 26: 26-30**

S#1.

A. At dawn on April 19, 1775 the first men died in military conflict for your freedom

1. The British soldiers marched from Boston to Concord to seize colonial weapons.
2. As they passed Lexington they wanted to capture Samuel Adams and John Hancock.
3. Being warned by riders like Paul Revere, from 38 to 70 militiamen were assembled.
4. The skirmish left 8 militiamen dead.
5. They were buried under the green and an obelisk was erected so no one would forget

B. Since then more than a million soldiers have died defending this country.

1. We have set up memorials in many places, but the next generation always forgets.
 - a. The U.S. Memorial Arch at Valley Forge Pennsylvania – George Washington S#2.
 - b. World War I Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri S#3.
 - c. World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. S#4.
 - d. Korean War and Vietnam memorials in Washington, D.C. S#5.
2. We have three holidays set aside to remember those who have protected us.
 - a. Memorial Day / Died in war ... Last Monday in May (reduced to a day off)
 - b. Veterans Day / all who have served and survived ... Nov. 11
 - c. Armed Forces Day / those serving now ... The third Saturday in May (20th)
3. All this effort and we still forget.
 - a. Sometimes we see the memorials and forget why our fathers built them.
 - b. Franklin Delano Roosevelt : Those who have long enjoyed such privileges S#6.
as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them.

C. The purpose of Memorial Day is to serve as an annual reminder.

1. Through the years **41** million people have served in our military.
2. Freedom is never free; of the 41 mil, **1** million have died in or as a result of battle.

D. Memorial Day was started by Gen. John Logan in 1868.

1. 625,000 men died in the civil war, many from diseases. **2% of pop = 6 mil today**
2. The country was divided by hard feelings over the war, but all towns had war dead.
3. General order #11 declared May 30 as Decoration Day to put flowers on the graves.
4. In spite of protests of the veteran's, Lyndon Johnson degraded it to the last Monday.

I. We should remember the cost of our freedoms.**S#7.****A. We have greater freedom than any people in the history of the world.****S#8.**

1. We're free to travel 3000 mi. E. to W. and 1500 mi. N. to S. w/o stop at checkpoint.
2. We have the right to believe, to speak and to write most anything we want to.
3. We can worship any god in any way we want to without fear of the government.
* *This freedom was the very motivation for the founding of this country.*
4. We should appreciate that over a million people died to secure these freedoms.

- a. Freedom is not and has never been free.

**John 15: 13 – Greater love has no one than this,
that one lay down his life for his friends.**

- b. We should be eager to do our part to sustain these freedoms. Short of dying we can speak out, can vote, can write letters to our representatives and we can pray daily.

B. Remembrances are a godly virtue. (Rainbow)

1. When God delivered His people from Egyptian bondage He established a reminder.

- a. The months of their calendar were to be started from that day.

S#9.

**Exod. 12: 2 – This month shall be the beginning of months for you;
it is to be the first month of the year to you.**

- b. The each household was to kill a lamb and put some of the blood above the door.

Exod 12: 7– ..then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it **S#10.
at twilight. 7 ' Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on
the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.**

- c. This same ritual was to be performed every year so they would never forget.

**Exod. 12: 14 – Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall
celebrate it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations
you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.**

2. God commanded that a remembrance of their first victory be memorialized. **S#11.**

- a. **Exod 17** ... When Amalek attacked Israel at Rephidim, God gave them the victory

- b. As long Moses stood on the hilltop and held up the staff of God Joshua prevailed.

- c. God commanded a written record of the even be made as a memorial for Joshua.

**Exod. 17: 14 – Then the Lord said to Moses, " Write this in a book as a
memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out
the memory of Amalek from under heaven."**

3. When God released Israel from wilderness wandering He established a memorial.

- a. **Josh. 3: 14-17** ... Just as God had parted the seas when they left Egypt,
He parted the Jordan when they left the wilderness.

- b. As they crossed on dry ground piled 12 stone in the river and 12 on the shore.

- c. God commanded that a permanent memorial be constructed to remind them.

Josh. 4: 6-7 – Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask **S#12.** later, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' **7** then you shall say to them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.' So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever."

II. We should remember the cost of our freedom from the guilt of sin.

S#13.

A. Sin is a universal plague that captures people and separates them from God.

1. The normal average Joe is eternally lost.

a. **Eph. 2: 1-3** – And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you **S#14.** formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

b. **Eph. 2: 12-13** – remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, **S#15.** excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

2. There are no exceptions, every person on earth eventually becomes a slave of sin.

Rom. 3: 10 – As it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ...
23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

B. It is ONLY by the sacrifice of Jesus that we are able to be saved from sin.

1. Only Jesus can take away the guilt of our sins.

John 1: 29 – The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, **S#16.**
"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

2. It was the precious blood of the Lamb of God that redeemed us.

I Pet. 1: 18-19 – ... knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, **19** but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

3. One can only be saved by the sacrifice of Jesus.

I Cor. 15: 1-4 – Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I **S#17.** preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for

our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

C. As freedom from tyranny is purchased with blood, so also is freedom from sin.

III. We should remember our nation's Christian heritage.

S#18.

A. As the colonies settled they included God in their original charters.

S#19.

1. **Rhode Island** Charter of 1683 began with these words: "We submit our persons, lives and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, to all those perfect and most absolute laws of His given to us in His Holy Word.
2. **Maryland's** charter of 1632 : ... treading in the steps of his Father, being animated with a laudable, and pious zeal for extending the Christian, religion and also the territories of our empire,
3. **Delaware** 1776. Article XXII. Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust... shall...make and subscribe the following declaration, to wit: "I, _____, do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."
4. The Fundamental Orders of **Connecticut** January 14, 1639 :
(*This is the first written constitution in the colonies.*)
For as much as it hath pleased Almighty God by the wise disposition of His divine providence so to ... well knowing where a people are gathered together the word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people there should be an orderly and decent Government established according to God, ... do therefore associate and conjoin ourselves to be as one Public State or Commonwealth; and do for ourselves and our successors and such as shall be adjoined to us at any time hereafter, enter into Combination and Confederation together, to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess, as also, the discipline of the Churches, which according to the truth of the said Gospel is now practiced amongst us;

B. George Washington was convinced of the providence of God in the war.

S#20.

1. In a letter to Brig. Gen. Thomas Nelson (1778)
The Hand of providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligations.
2. Gen. Washington prayed when in impossible circumstances :
Washington grossly underestimated the strength of the British force that the Howe brothers brought against him on Long Island. Admiral Howe brought 400 ships carrying 32,000 men including 9,000 Hessian mercenaries. General

Howe was the most brilliant infantry tactician in the entire British army. The As the battle ensued the Americans lost 1000 men and the British lost 400. Two American generals (Sterling and Sullivan) were captured, but their men escaped.

On the cusp of victory, for some unknown reason Gen. Howe ordered his men to stop pressing the battle and dig trenches. Washington called a prayer meeting and then ordered his men to retreat in small boats across the river. His officers objected because there was a storm blowing high winds. However, the winds died down just as the evacuation started and they had a mild tailwind. Even so, Washington was unable to get all 9,000 of his men across the river before daylight, but the providence of God was with them for a thick fog unexplainably settled in over the river.

C. Our religious heritage is under strong attack; we must defend it with zeal. S#21.

1. John Adams, our second President said,
"We have risen to great heights because God has blessed us."
2. **Psa. 32: 12** – Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. S#22.
3. **Psa. 46: 1-2** – God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.
**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change
 And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;**

IV. We should remember our responsibility to spread the gospel. S#23.

A. The gospel is the only way to rescue our nation from the evil that is corrupting it. S#24.

1. **Rom. 1: 16** – For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
2. Governments rise and fall, but we've proclaimed the same gospel for 2000 yrs.

B. Satan seeks to destroy all that is good and holy. S#25.

1. God is the only hope for humanity, for our nation, **for you.**
2. Remember **Mark 5** ... The Gerasene Demoniac
 - a. His whole life was changed when the demons were cast out.
 - b. He wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus told him :
Mark 5: 19 – And He did not let him, but He said to him, " Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." *Like him you must tell it.*
3. You were lost, without hope and without God in the world, but Jesus saved you.

C. If Jesus has not saved you, now is the time for you to come to Him. S#26.

INVITATION :

S#27. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Joshua 3: 13 – 4: 7**

13 It shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap."

14 So when the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people, **15** and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), **16** the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. So the people crossed opposite Jericho. **17** And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan.

4:1 Now when all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, **2** "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, **3** and command them, saying, 'Take up for yourselves twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet are standing firm, and carry them over with you and lay them down in the lodging place where you will lodge tonight.'" **4** So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the sons of Israel, one man from each tribe; **5** and Joshua said to them, " Cross again to the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel. **6** " Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' **7** then you shall say to them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.' So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever."

Matthew 26: 26-30

26 While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." **27** And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; **28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. **29** "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

30 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.