

**Date:** May 26, 2019  
**Series:** Annual Memorial Day Messages

## **IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER ON MEMORIAL DAY** (Selected Scriptures)

Introductory video: *Saluting Boy on Omaha Beach*

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Wow. What an amazing tribute to those **2,499 US servicemen** who laid down their lives that horrible day on June 6, 1944. From the first war in America—the Revolutionary War, which began in 1775—until today, our government has put the number of service people who have died for the freedom we enjoy as Americans at over 1.2 million. 1.2 million lives! And that is why we remember. We remember because the freedom and prosperity we enjoy came at a price.

This morning, the title I have given to my message is: **“Important Things to Remember on Memorial Day.”** As Americans, it goes without saying that we take a moment on this national holiday and remember those who died to protect our freedoms. But as believers in Christ, we also pause to remember some things that are very important. We remember because the Bible calls us to remember.

“Important Things to Remember on Memorial Day”

(Prayer)

Steve Jobs, one of the founders of Apple computers died of pancreatic cancer in October of 2011. When he gave a college commencement address at Stanford University in 2005, one of the weighty concepts that he shared with those college graduates had to do with this idea of “remembering.” Jobs said:

*Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything — all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure — these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important.*

This morning, I would like us to look at some key verses in Scripture that involve this concept of “remembering.”

**First, we should thank God for what He remembers.**

(Context: thief on cross next to Jesus)

**Luke 23:42-43**-----<sup>42</sup> Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

(Comments about this story) Even though people forget promises they make to us all the time, Jesus will NEVER forget the promises He makes to you and I about eternity. He's God. God cannot lie. If God ever failed just ONE PERSON out of the millions He has saved and that ONE PERSON somehow ended up in hell, ALL OF US would be in hell with him because that would make God a liar whose promises are worthless. But Jesus said:

**John 10:27-28**-----<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup> And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

So on this Memorial Day, not only do we remember and thank God for the privates, and sergeants, and lieutenants, and captains who have died for us on the battlefield, but we also thank God that “the Captain of our Salvation”—the Lord Jesus—died for us on the cross and He keeps every single promise He has ever made. Every one of them!

Jesus will remember you and you will one day be with Him!

*When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that shall be.  
When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!*

**Second, we should thank God for what He does *not* remember.**

**Hebrews 10:15-17**-----<sup>15</sup> But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, <sup>16</sup> “*This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,*” <sup>17</sup> then He adds, “*Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.*”

Corrie ten Boom said: “God takes our sins – the past, present, and future, and dumps them in the sea and puts up a sign that says NO FISHING ALLOWED.”

(Comments)

**Third, as His people we should remember...**

- **That being despised and ridiculed by others is part of following Christ**

**John 15:20**-----<sup>20</sup> **Remember** the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

- **That our time on earth is short**

**James 4:14**----- ...what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

And the Psalmist said to God:

**Psalm 89:47-48**-----**Remember** how short my time is ... What man can live and not see death?

Do you remember the words of Steve Jobs that I shared earlier? He said that remembering that he would be dead soon helped him to make the very best choices in life.

One time, **Jesus told a parable** about a man who focused only on getting rather than on giving. He had so much he had to tear down his barns and build bigger ones. And then Jesus abruptly ends his parable by saying, "**Fool, you will** lose your life this evening. Then who will own all of this?" Then Jesus says to His listeners: "**This is how** it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

And this leads us to our next lesson. As God's people, we should remember...

- **That through giving, we are more blessed than through receiving**

**Acts 20:35**-----<sup>35</sup> I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And **remember** the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Part of being like Christ with your finances is **saving**:

**Proverbs 21:20**-----<sup>20</sup> There is desirable treasure, and [olive] oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it.

But a Christlike person does not save **everything** he or she makes:

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**-----<sup>6</sup> Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. <sup>7</sup> You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

(Say some **KIND** but straightforward words about the church budget and giving.)

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Today we have exhorted you to remember—to never forget those things that Christ Has done for us and promised us—and to remember that life is short and we are to bear Christ's shame and be people of generosity.

Jennie Evelyn Hussey was a poet and songwriter who was born in 1874 and died in 1958. For many years she was the caregiver for her bedridden sister even while she battled with her own debilitating arthritis. She grew up in a Quaker home, but when she was older she joined the First Baptist Church of Concord, NH (and since Quaker's did not practice water baptism, she asked to be baptized). She told the pastor: *"I've spent much of my life hidden away in the country, and I'd like to have the opportunity, before God takes me home, to tell everybody, 'I love Jesus.'"*

Now, before I shared that story with you, you may have never heard of Jennie Evelyn Hussey before. But I know this, many of you have the words to a song she wrote forever burned into your memories.

This song, which she wrote nearly 100 years ago in 1921, was her prayer that Jesus would never let her forget all He had done in dying for her sins:

*King of my life, I crown Thee now,  
Thine shall the glory be;  
Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow,  
Lead me to Calvary.*

*Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony;  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.*

Shall we pray?