

SM 051720

Good Riddance?

Sunday Morning Message

Text – 2 Chronicles 21

Congregational Reading – 2 Chronicles 21:18 - 20

Introduction

On Memorial Day we remember and honor the men and women who had fought and died for our nation. It began as a national tradition after the Civil War.

Illustrate – Brother Bob Fenton goes to the Viet Nam War Memorial in Wildwood every year, and he remembers the names, and looks for the names of the men who fought alongside of him in the war, but lost their lives.

Memorial Day has evolved through the years and has become a time when we not only honor the dead who served their country and fought for liberty in our military, but we as Christians also remember those who have given their lives for the cause of Christ through the centuries – the martyrs. We also celebrate those who are still alive and are serving America today. This year, as we honor those who have given their lives in what Abraham Lincoln called that “last full measure of devotion,” we will also express our thanks to living veterans; to those still serving the military today; to those who serve their communities – the first responders. This year, we also would like to thank all of the health care people and essential workers who continued to stay on the job, risking their lives, while many of us were bunkered down at home trying to avoid the Covid-19 virus.

The point is, we use times like these to remember the good things that people have done for us as a nation. Just about everybody has something about them that we can say was good. However, in our text today we meet a man – a king of the southern Kingdom of Judah – that was not good, and did nothing good; and when he died it was recorded that “he departed without being desired.” Nobody was sorry that he died, and no one would ever want to honor his life. He was a guy that people desired to forget on Memorial Day. When he died, the people probably said something like: “good riddance”

[Read the Passage and make comments]

1. V. 1 - He was the son of a good king – Jehoshaphat. Though Jehoshaphat himself was a godly man, he hung around with the wrong crowd. He spent a lot of time

fellowshipping and fighting alongside of wicked King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. Jehoshaphat was a good man, but he wasn't separated, and he lost his kids.

2. Vs. 2 – 4 – When Jehoram becomes king, he has all of his brothers killed so that there would be no one to challenge him for the throne.
3. Vs. 5 – 6 – Jehoram modeled his reign after the wicked kings of the northern kingdom of Israel. He was more like King Ahab than he was like his father Jehoshaphat. He married King Ahab and Queen Jezebel's daughter. If you were to read chapters 22 and 23 you would see that she was just as bad, if not worse, than her mother.
4. V. 7 – Even though Jehoram "wrought that which was evil," God would not kill him yet, because he promised David that he would leave a seed from among His children.
5. Vs. 8 – 10 – Because Jehoram was a wicked leader, Judah was plagued with problems. The Edomites and the nation of Libnah attacked him, and were successful in breaking away from Judah. Since the time of David, those nations were paying tribute to Judah. God was no longer blessing Judah militarily because Jehoram had "forsaken the Lord God of his fathers."
6. V. 11 – He brought idolatry into the land and encouraged and may have forced the people of God to worship them.
7. Vs. 12 – 15 – Elijah, who was primarily a prophet to the northern kingdom, writes Jehoram a letter prophesying all of the bad things that will happen to Judah and to Jehoram because of all the wicked things that he was responsible for.
8. Vs. 16 – 17 – A confederation of enemies invades Judah, and successfully get as far as Jerusalem. They get into the palace, and they carry away all of his stuff and many of his wives, and all but one of his children.
9. Vs. 18 – 20 – He dies of an excruciatingly painful disease that took two years to finally kill him. And when he died, they didn't even have a funeral service for him, they just buried him in a place away from where they buried all of the good kings.

Jehoram was a guy who is exactly opposite of who we would honor on Memorial Day. He was like a Nero or a Hitler. He was bad news. The people said: "good riddance – we are glad you are gone" when he died.

Transition – What will people say about you when you die? Will you depart without being desired, or will people say about you: "He was good man," "She was a great lady."

On Memorial Day, we remember and honor those who have given their lives for us.

A The Lord

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." - (Romans 5:8)

B Those That Have Died for The Cause of Christ

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ...

"And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." - (Hebrews 11:13, 36-40)

John the Baptist

Stephen

The Apostles

John Huss

Jim Elliot; Nate Saint

C Those That Have Fallen for America

Revolutionary War

War of 1812

Civil War

WWI

WWII

Korea

Viet Nam

Desert Storm

Iraqi Freedom

Afghanistan

Not to mention all of the many conflicts that our soldiers have fought in.

Not to mention the many men and women who have died in services like the Coast Guard while attempting rescue one of us.

Not to mention all of the training exercises where men and woman have tragically died preparing themselves to protect us.

D Those Who Have Fallen in the Line of Duty

First Responders – Police, Firefighters, and other rescue workers – like all of the men and women who went into the Towers on 9-11 attempting to save the lives of those trapped within.

We don't want to forget these people.

We don't want to forget to honor these people.

E Those Who Still Serve Today

F We don't honor men like Jehoram – we like to forget men like him.

Conclusion

I doubt very seriously that any of you are like Jehoram. You are all basically good people who try to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord.

But what will you be remembered for? What will people say about you when you die? Will you depart being desired? Will you leave a void? Will people miss you? Will America be at a loss when you are gone?

When Jehoram died, the people were glad – “Good Riddance!”

What will people say when you die?

If you want to be remembered in a positive way, you have to start living your life now in such a way that benefits those around you and gives glory to the Lord.

Serve the Lord

Serve Your Family – Love Your Family

Serve Your Community - *"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep,"* (Acts 13:36)