

MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE

John 15:13 Matthew 10:17-22 Revelation 2:10; 6:9-11; 7:9-17

Introduction: On Memorial Day we recognize a special kind of people. Many have given their lives while serving in our military forces. Their names have been engraved in stone or on metal plaques, places and things have been named after them, and parades in their honor and memory. All these are proper and fitting, however, there are other fallen men and women that should be mentioned who did not fall while serving this country, but in serving their Lord and God. Most names have long been forgotten by mankind, but not by our Heavenly Father. For He has rewarded them with the highest place of honor that can be bestowed upon a human being. They have the honor of being placed nearest the throne of God in heaven. They have the privilege of serving our heavenly Father there in His very throne room. Let us recognize and honor them along with those who gave their lives while serving in our military.

Jesus - crucified

Stephen - stoned to death

James (of Zebedee) - beheaded

Mattathias - stoned to death, then beheaded

Andrew - crucified

Mark - dragged to pieces

Peter - crucified (upside down)

Paul - beheaded

Jude - crucified

Bartholomew - crucified

Thomas - run through with a spear

Luke - hanged

Simon (Zealotes) - crucified

John - old age

Millions of believers have been slain through the years. Even today hundreds of Christians are murdered daily for their faith in Jesus.

MANNER OF DEATH OF CHRISTIANS

Burning

Beheaded

Shot with arrows

Hanging

Stoning

Boiling in oil or tar

Pulled apart on a rack

Hooked with hooks and hung from a pole

Crucified

Burned to death by hot irons

Hung by the feet with a weight tied around the neck

Hands and feet cut off and bled to death

Imprisoned in cells with broken glass on the floor and in total darkness
Laid on an iron rack with spikes and with fire beneath
Fed alive to wild animals
Teeth knocked out and hair pulled out
Turned over a fire until burned to death
Beaten to death
Ground to death underneath mill stones
Thrown into the sea, bound with a heavy stone around the neck
Poisoned
Starved to death
Ears cut off, blinded, and arms and legs pulled off
Skinned alive, then salt rubbed in
Burned to death in ovens
Strangled to death
Impaled on stakes
Put into a bag filled with poisonous snakes and scorpions
Dressed in clothing covered with wax and then set afire
Animal skins sewn around the body and wild dogs turned loose on them
Hung by the hair and roasted over a fire
Thrown from high walls
Shot with guns
Brains beaten out with a hammer
Gassed to death
Cut into pieces
Tongue pulled out with pliers
Buried alive
Whipped to death
Killed, then eaten
Imprisoned until dead.

HOW DID THEY STAY FAITHFUL?

1. Jesus forewarned believers (*Matthew 10:22; 24:9; John 16:2*)
 - not to fear dying for Him
 - be prepared to die for Him
 - the devil wants to kill every believer
2. Starting qualities don't always last to the end of life.
 - Multitudes have left the church, given up their faith, although some come back
 - Peter, Judas, Demas, Mark, all left, but came back.
3. Why do some stay through death and some won't even stay when nothing is wrong?
 - Conscience - knowing what is right and sure one's belief of what is right
 - Cause - the right reason to stay, a reason greater than one's own self
 - Conviction - persuaded that it is worth dying for.

CONCLUSION:

1. How far do you think you would go for your faith in Jesus?
2. What condition is your faith in today?
3. Actions speak louder and truer than words. Remember Peter's boast, then cowardly actions?
4. Let us not forget God's martyrs, heros, He Hasn't!