

“HOW TO FACE LIFE WITH COURAGE”

MEMORIAL DAY 2017

Pastor William Pope

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I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Unlike Veterans Day when we remember all of those who have served our nation in the military, Memorial Day is set aside especially for those who have given “that last full measure of devotion”. They gave their lives for our country and we remember their sacrifice on this day.
- b. Memorial Day was first observed informally after the Civil War. First Proclaimed by Gen John Logan, Commander of the Union Veterans Group, The Grand Army of the Republic, in 1868. Many Southern States recognized Confederate Dead on a separate holiday called Confederate Memorial Day until After WWI when Memorial Day shifted to from a remembrance of Civil War Dead to the dead of all American Wars.
- c. Remember the over 1.3 million men and women who have giving their lives for our country over the last 241 years.
- d. One trait that these men and women had was courage.
- e. We might not be called upon to give our life for our country but all of us require some type of courage to face life

II. COURAGE

- a. Faith is the absence of doubt but the decision to move forward in the face of doubt
- b. So, Courage is not the absence of fear but the willingness to move forward in the face of fear
- c. What kind of Courage do you need?
 - i. Courage to keep smiling after a great loss
 - ii. Courage to keep hoping after a great disappointment

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- iii. Courage to keep trusting after a great betrayal
- iv. Courage to keep living after a great loss
- v. Courage to keep loving after a great hurt.
- d. *“Do you know what hurts so very much? It's love. Love is the strongest force in the world, and when it is blocked that means pain. There are two things we can do when this happens. We can kill that love so that it stops hurting. But then of course part of us dies, too. Or we can ask God to open up another route for that love to travel.” - Corrie Ten Boom*
- e. The great enemy of courage is fear:
 - i. Fear of rejection
 - ii. Fear of failure
 - iii. Fear of loss
 - iv. Fear of pain
 - v. Fear of death
 - vi. Fear of shame
 - vii. Fear of people
 - viii. Fear of being alone
- f. Over and Over the Bible tells us not to fear:
 - i. **Deuteronomy 31:6** *Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.*
 - ii. **Psalms 27:1** *The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? (NKJV)*
 - iii. **Psalms 34:4** *I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears..*
 - iv. **Psalms 34:7** *The Angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him and delivers them.*

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- v. **Psalm 56:3-4** *When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? (NIV)*
- vi. **Isaiah 41:10** *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (NIV)*
- vii. **Isaiah 41:13** *For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. (NIV)*
- viii. **Isaiah 54:4** *Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. (NKJV)*
- ix. **Matthew 10:26** *Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. (NKJV)*
- x. **Matthew 10:28** *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (NKJV)*
- xi. **Romans 8:15** *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (KJV)*
- xii. **1 Corinthians 16:13** *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. (NIV)*
- xiii. **2 Timothy 1:7** *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (NLT)*
- xiv. **Hebrews 13:5-6** *For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (NKJV)*

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- xv. **1 John 4:18** *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (NIV)*

II. COURAGE IS ROOTED IN FAITH

- a. **Hebrews 11**
- b. **Hebrews 12:1-4**
- c. Example of man crossing MS River on ice

III. COURAGE IS REVEALED BY COMMITMENT

- a. **Mathew 16:24**
- b. Nothing is possible in life without commitment
 - i. Work
 - ii. Society
 - iii. Relationships

IV. COURAGE RESPONDS WITH SACRIFICE

- a. Mathew 16:24
- b. John 15:213
- c. Hebrews 11:35-38