



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Memorial Day Series, Lesson 1

Lesson Title: Memorial Day

Take Home Point: Anything worth living for is worth dying for.

Warm-Up:

Consider for a moment our country's founders. We often hear of their writings or oratory. But sometimes we forget they were targeted for prison and death because they lived what they believed. They placed themselves in mortal danger, day after day, because they believed so much in the cause of independence. And some of them did die for the cause. Years ago someone said to me, "You only really believe what motivates you to action." I think of that every so often, especially in the spiritual realm, because if I claim to believe the Bible is God's word, then what God teaches me from his word should affect my actions. If it doesn't, then maybe I don't really believe it. That's kind of scary for me. Do I act like I truly believe that God's revelation shows me the right way to live day after day?

Read: Joshua 1:5; John 15:20; Acts 7:54-60; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:12

Observation (What happened?):

In John 15:20, what did Jesus warn his disciples about?

What promise does God make in Joshua 1:5?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What was it about Stephen's words that infuriated the Sanhedrin so much they killed him?

What does it mean to "fight the good fight of faith"?

Insight:

Do you think Stephen woke up that morning thinking he would die for his beliefs before the day was over? Probably not. But what he did know was that he would live for what he believed – that Jesus paid the penalty for his sins and Stephen's life now belonged to his Savior. So it is still. You and I have no idea what the next five minutes will bring, much less the whole day. So what do we live for and how does it affect the way we live? Do we live as though the next minutes may be our last and we want them to glorify God? Or do we tend to be like the people described in James 4:13-17: *"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' ... Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."* (NIV) Some of us may die for what we believe, most probably not. But we can all live for what we believe.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What do you believe you would die for? How do you live today for the same thing?

Take a moment to thank God for those willing to live and die for what they believed was right.