

MEMORIAL SUNDAY MAY 30-54

Deut. 6:3-12

We come again to Memorial Day. On this day we are to honor soldiers, sailors, marines, scientists, missionaries, teachers, physicians, surgeons, nurses, miners, engineers, builders, farmers, all professional men, known, and unknown, who brought their supreme gift of love and brotherhood and dedicated it to the good of humanity.

Some one has said that "Millions worry and fret themselves in to oblivion, but a few people forget themselves into immortality."

It is well for us to remember that we are indebted to many people who are unremembered, unsung, and unknown.

Even famous people who have brought great benefits to people are unremembered when we are using the thing that they have made possible for us to have.

- a. We pick up the telephone many times without thinking of the hard work of Bell which led to the patenting of this important instrument in 1876.
- b. We turn on the electric light without always remembering how Edison spent \$40,000. in a series of unfruitful experiments until at last in 1879 he succeeded in bringing up the incandescent bulb.
- c. We turn on the radio and television and never stop to think of the tremendous labors ^{Marconi} he went through in order for the first time to send a wireless message one and $\frac{3}{4}$ miles in 1896.
- d. We fly across the country and do not always bring to memory the work of the Wright Brothers. We may be excused for not thinking of the Wrights, I guess, for if you are like me you are too scared to think of any body. (Scotchman whose wife fell out). We do not stop to think of the Wright biplane that made the first transcontinental flight, piloted by Calbaith Rodgers. It arrived in Cal after being repaired and rebuilt so many times on the way that nothing was left of the original machine but the vertical rudder and drip pan.

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We enjoy many things without once thinking of the cost in bringing them to us. I am told that there is an inscription the wall of a library in Washington that reads as follows: "We taste the spices of Arabia, and never feel the scorching sun that brings them forth."

These people not remembered by us although really well known in history, labored hard and long to bring us all these benefits. When we do pause a moment, say on a Memorial Day to think of them we are reminded of the verse in Hebrews 12:1 which reads: "We are compassed about by so great cloud of witnesses."

Back of these people who are not remembered, although well known, are people so little known that they can only be found by great effort. They also toiled toward great achievements but never arrived at the goal. What they did perhaps aided those who who received the credit.

- a. By research we may discover that fifteen years before Bell patented the telephone a German by the name of Reis gave a public description of exactly such an instrument.
- b. Twenty years before Edison succeeded with his incandescent lamp Swan made one on the same principle but did not have batteries with power enough to make it work successfully.
- c. We may remember that behind the airplane were the many contraptions that crashed. daVinci's flying machine fell on the rocks and he was forced to say, "If it is not for me to do it it will be for someone else to accomplish."
- d. Mountain climbing. Some times on a vertical cliff one man must brace himself and stand while another climbs upon his shoulders in order to reach higher on the Mt. These are the ones upon whose shoulders others have to reach the heights and win the prize. For them RICHARD BURTON has written:

THE SONG OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL

WE ARE THE HARD LUCK FOLK WHO STROVE
ZEALOUSLY BUT IN VAIN
WE LOST AND LOST WHILE OUR COMRADES THROVE
AND STILL WE ARE LOST AGAIN.

WE ARE DOUBLES OF THOSE WHOSE WAY
 WAS FESTAL WITH FRUITS AND FLOWERS
 BODY AND BRAIN WE WERE SOUND AS THEY
 BUT THE PRIZES WERE NOT OURS.

Now let us go one step farther back still. We have spoken of the well known whom we do not always remember, and back of them the little known who have been praised very much. One step farther back are literally unknown.

They are the people we can not by any means find out. They are lost in the gaps of history and in the ranks of the un-named. One simple illustration. Now don't any one get imbarassed. Here is an illustration. That indis pensable object of modern civilization the safety pin. It is commonly thought that the safety pin was invented by Walter Hunt, no not Walter Bennett, in the 1840's. But I read that if you will visit the Palestine Institute of Archaeology in the Pacific School of Religion you will find safety pins made on the same principle which excavated in the Palestinian tombs of the Iron Age three thousand years ago. So we owe this indispensable thing to some UNKNOWN person of the long ago.

You ride the seas and fly in the air by charts and I am told that we do not know who made them. But you can not ride the seas not the air safely without them. Such then we would say are the people completely unknown.

Their Contribution

1. Unknown Evangelists have started great churches. To many people the Church at Rome is the greatest church in the world. That church claims that it was founded by Paul and Peter. The Book of the Popes says that Peter entered Rome when Nero was Caesar in 54 A.D. Claudius was his predecessor and a historian tells us that Claudius expelled Jews who stirred up strife because Christ was being preached. Priscilla and Aquila were expelled but seems to have become Christians for they went to Corinth and Paul roomed at their house. So five years before the Book of the Popes says Peter entered Rome there were CHRISTIANS IN ROME

See Acts 2:10. People from Rome were at Pentecost and carried Gospel to Rome and they are unknown to us. 4

2. Unknown missionaries have left blessings behind them on islands where our soldier boys would be stranded people were kind to them because missionaries had been there before them.
3. Unknown sufferers have called forth the efforts of great healers. R.F. Miller's book TRIUMPH OVER PAIN One of the heroes was Henry Hill Hickman. When a lad he went down where there had been an accident. A workman was hurt. The workman groaned, when they decided to take him to the hospital for an operation, "But I have no money" Hickman decided then he would become a surgeon and operate on the poor free. At medical school he saw his first operation and it was horrible. After looking up the works of Priestly, Davy, and Faraday he became a party in discovering anesthesia. But those we would speak of here are the unknown sufferers whose pain was the call to Hickman and others to do their work.

CONCLUSIONS

1. We are to do our work not thinking too much about whether we are known or unknown. People may be depending on us even though we do not know it or know them. We must be careful not to let any mistake hide in us that might hurt some one. In the last war this sign was in an airplane factory: "A concealed mistake may cause a brave man to lose his life."
2. ~~We should realize how many people are helping us in our job.~~ "When a missionary enters a community (Medical) he is accompanied by a thousand men. Pasteur with his knowledge of bacteriology. Fleming with his discovery of penicillin, Jerome and Tindale with their translations of the Bible, and Saint Paul with his interpretation of Christianity, together with each person contributing to missions.
3. Though unknown we may become well known II Cor. 6:9. Roman historians wrote about big men but Paul was unknown. Now those big men are forgotten but Paul is well known.

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Some ^{one} asked Albert Schweitzer to name the greatest ^{alive} person in the world. Many of course would vote for him. But he said, "No one we know could be properly described as the greatest man alive. The greatest man in the world is some unknown person who lives only for other people." (5)

We may be unknown but well known to God and that is what counts. "In the shadow of every great man walks his mother" unknown by many but well known to God.

Now the climax of this service must be that we remember Jesus and dedicate our lives to carry on the program he has set for us.

