

Equal Bones  
African ppl. History

(P) S. N. May 30, 1976 P.M. WXRJ -  
(Memorial Day) -

THE MIGHTY DEAD

Exodus 13:19

"And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him." On this Memorial Day we honor the memory of men fallen in battle. The memory too of our fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters - those who have died for us and have lived for us. There can be no doubt that those who gave their lives in war, and those who have watched over our lives in the peaceful confines of home were acting in your behalf. Much was done and endured for our sakes. What can we do for their sakes. They felt it their duty and they undertook their duty. If you had asked them what was the compelling force that led them to serve humanity in some special way, they would say to save our homes and those we love.

In 1867 some sensitive women of Columbus, Miss., decorated not only the graves of their own dead who had given their lives in the great Civil War, but also the graves of Northern soldiers who were buried there. The noble deed inspired others to do the same. Today it is an annual custom and it has become nation-wide, Memorial Day.

It has become a beautiful day of tribute. Celebrated with music, parades, speeches, decorating of graves, and those who have died in the wars of our nation. It has become an effective way of helping us remember those who have made it possible for us to be where we are and to have what we have today.

Those who have paid the supreme sacrifice. Those who have become expendable.  
Those who die that others may live.

This is one of the natural experiences of human life. Those who die to make the full life possible for others. The most tragic fact of reality is that some of us must be sacrificed for the rest of us.

Memorial Day reminds us of the historical principle - none of us doubt for a moment that we are citizens of the greatest republic in history of mankind. Because so many gave their lives to make it possible. When we think of the thousands of military personnel who have died during America's wars. All the way back in York Town, Flander's Field, Gettysburg, Pearl Harbor, Korea, Vietnam.

And we think of Arlington Cemetery and similar gardens around the world. The silent graves of hundreds of Americans who give a testimony that everything costs. And (freedom costs) most of all. Visit some Battle Field -

Today would be a good day for us to remember that others have given their lives besides the military, for liberty and for health. Think of the pioneers who sacrificed the security of their homeland to carve out the wilderness of America. We may never forget the first group of those who came to this land poorly clothed, half starved, untrained, badly equipped - but they faced death. But they made the nation secure.

There have been scientists and inventors who have gone against the odds of nature and have brought industrial revolution and have shared with the martyrs and the heroes.

There have been those in medical fields that have made progress and have become the world's noblest expendables. A multitude of these have died and suffered the agony of disease and affliction.

There have been those in education, business, politics, religion - who have crusaded and have put their lives on the line. In every age and in every area of life, there are those who have been expendable - people who have had to lose that others may gain.

Could we have done without them? Wasn't their very act of sacrifice more successful and more essential than all of the little acts of selfishness which we exhibit.

We could even think of the supreme example of our Lord Jesus Christ, think of how he loved life. Every blade of grass, every pedal on the rose. He touched it. And think of his marvelous power and his compassionate love. And think of how much he must have wanted to keep living in this great world. But he offered it to a sick world.

Those who have the most to live for are often the quickest to give up their lives. They are the most alert, the most sensitive, the most talented.

There are many who could have lived in luxury, in softness, and in ease. But they turned their lives over to a great purpose and a great cause. They consecrated their powers to a service that was perhaps dangerous.

Think of the early disciples who knew what a man had to decide. When he takes up the cross. Not simply bearing the burden but he must be ready to die for a cause.

Matthew suffered martyrdom by being slain with a sword at the distant city of Ethiopia. Luke was hanged upon an olive tree in the classic land of Greece.

John was put into boiling oil. But he escaped death and was afterward branded at Patmos.

Peter was crucified at Rome with his head downward.

James, the greater, was beheaded at Jerusalem.

James, the less, was thrown from the temple. And then beaten to death with a club.

Andrew was bound to a cross - when he preached to his persecutors until he died.

Thomas was run through the body with a lance.

Jude was shot to death with arrows.

Mathias was first stoned and then beheaded.

Barnabas of the Gentiles was stoned to death, at Salonica.

Paul, after various tortures, and persecutions was at length beheaded at Rome by the emperor Nero.

Such was the fate of the Apostles according to traditional statements and recorded in the Christian index.

As we think of the mighty dead - truly Memorial Day challenges us to be thoughtful concerning those who have paid the supreme price. Today, as Memorial Day, a grateful nation should pause to remember the valiant men

who have given their lives in the defense of their country. It is difficult to find appropriate words and means to express our true gratitude. As I have said already, every day ought to be a Memorial Day for Christians who recall the supreme sacrifice of Jesus.

I've taken a text tonight from the Old Testament, Exodus 13:19. It tells about Moses taking up the bones of Joseph and carrying them with him to the land of Canaan. And as we think of the mighty dead I want to do so under three heads. First, the (request) of the mighty dead. Second, the (recollection) of the mighty dead. Third, the (respect) for the mighty dead.

#### I. THE REQUEST OF THE MIGHTY DEAD

*Gen 50:25* In Gen. 50:25 - We read that Joseph requested and extracted a pledge from Israel that ye shall carry up my bones hence. This was a great request. Now every seasoned soldier knows that an extra ounce to the pack in the morning is an extra pound before evening.

Every soldier knows that he must not travel too light. But he must rid himself of all extra weight before going into battle. It is a struggle to put aside the sentimental tokens, letters, photographs, and other so-called things for necessities. And if they do not chose to get rid of that, they will have a heavy burden before the day is over.

The strict request of Joseph that his bones should be carried back to the land of his fathers. Yet apart from this, had Moses not done so, he would have been traveling too light.

Because this mighty man had value. And to carry the memory of his departed loved ones and friends, and as a hero - was a great value to Israel.

The mighty dead had been able to carry the burdens of the nation before. And now the bones of Joseph was to become their burden. As he requested it, and I do not think it was a very difficult or hard request, for these men to fulfill.

It is the Christian duty to carry with us, on the path of life the bones of our mighty dead. Those of Joseph had sworn to the Israelites to carry him. We are bound up with the men and women of the generation before us - and we cannot too carefully carry along with us their memory.

Our debt to these that have immediately preceded us in life, who have set us an example of a consistent Christian course.

What living Christian man does not feel that to some Christian person tonight, older than himself, perhaps still alive or else maybe has passed away. He is indebted for the many changes that have taken place in his life. Maybe some mighty dead have been the result of him turning away from dumb idols and worshipping the living God.

What gratitude is not due in each such case. Such memories are to be cherished, clung too. Not given up for he to whom we owe so much is dead.

“Being dead, such a one still speaketh.” And it is well that our hearts shall still hear his voice or her voice. And be thankful for it.

“Now ye shall surely carry up my bones away hence with you.” Now this was a choice of Joseph's heart was still with his own people. The Hebrews were as yet as a (handful of shepherds.) And here was spiritual greatness which was

lacking in Egypt. And he gets them to pledge themselves. He was not ashamed to be called one of the humble settlers and he declared to them that he preferred a grave - to be buried with them rather than to be in the crowded mausoleum that Egypt could erect for him. So we have this request. And this charge. Josh. 25:22.

We must note here that Moses discharged this sacred charge and request. In the day of Israel's freedom, his body was to be taken in the great procession as these slaves left.

This teaches us something tonight - to pay some heed to the last requests of departing loved ones and friends.

Sam Jones - stood at the foot of his father's bed and said, "I quit" - promised his father on death bed to quit drinking, & did.

Many people are heedless of the requests of the dead. And any promise made to them is speedily forgotten.

It was not so with Moses. He honored the request of this mighty dead.

How many of you tonight are unmindful of the requests - or that was made of you of some person that was dead. How many young men are unmindful of the requests of their buried parents.

## II. RECOLLECTIONS OF THE MIGHTY DEAD

In this matter of recollection, we go back to Gen. 50:25 - we read that Joseph prophesied that God will surely visit you. As they recollected the prophecy of the mighty dead, it was not being fulfilled. He had lived 110 years.

Gen  
50:25

They had embalmed the body and put it in a coffin. And now they were taking up the bones, of the mighty dead. And they were transporting him. The cherished relations and memories which they had came back to life. Too many times it is a common practice to shut out the memory of the deceased.

I know bereavement is a terrible thing and grief is really something that may undo us. And many times people resolve that they will not think upon their dead. And yet it is quite possible to turn away so quickly - that we forget all of the rare qualities. But Christians will retain the dead in their thoughts. They will recollect those things that were for good. They will think about their words. And in this is an unseen help that may help in the struggle of the days ahead.

Joseph had said, God will surely visit you. Gen.50:25. And he had died in that faith - he had not yet received the promises. Of having seen the promise land, the land of Canaan. At the time of Joseph death, there were few tokens. That Israel would ever grow to be a great people or a special people. And that they would go to a land flowing with milk and honey. But Joseph's faith rested on God's plain word. God had said that this time would come and it did. And those who trusted it - even though they were ridiculed, they had confidence. They had a recollection of the mighty dead. Who had prophesied that this would take place. And the mighty dead increases our powers. He is poor indeed who does not know where there is a spot, a mound and a grave - where he can stand and summons to his side a presence that will glow again with some high ideal. And then determined to go away and achieve it.

Did it mean nothing to Moses when the desert sun was hot and the march was long. And the water failed. The food was scarce. The people were restless. But he carried the bones of Joseph.

*Inspiration came as they remembered Joseph a type of Saviour - sold as slave -*



Sticking Example Refusing Sin to Joseph's Wife - Improvised - Interpreted Dreams of Pharaoh - INSTALLED as Prime Minister - Preserved the Nation of Israel from famine.

The body of Joseph and the bones may have lain in the silent splendor of Egypt instead of going, wandering with his people. But here in the wilderness, Moses could touch them and take heart. He could use them as a token that it was better to seek a promised land in the hills and valleys, than to live in the level life of Egypt.

The mighty dead. They offer us a clear vision. They make somehow drudgery turn to a radiant quality. Both glorify the ideals. They make a man courageous and steadfast.

The audience applauded. There were 2,000 people. They had been requested not to applaud. When the Secretary of Navy, Frank Knox, distributed diplomas to 547 graduates, December 19, 1941, there was a mid-shipman. He spoke these words too. "Remember your father did not lose his life - he gave it." The man he addressed was Isaac Campbell Kidd, of Long Beach, California - whose father, Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd was killed at Pearl Harbor -12 days earlier by an attack of the Japanese. Young Kidd, pale and composed listened to this brief tribute to his father. Smiled, shook the hand of Secretary Knox, returned to his seat and requested that he be assigned to submarine duty.

There was recollection of the mighty dead and a mighty applause went up from the 2,000 who were there.

### III. RESPECT FOR THE MIGHTY DEAD

Josh 24:32 In Josh. (24:32) the Bible says that Moses, the bones of Joseph were brought to Shechem. The land had been bought by Jacob for 100 pieces of silver, or 100 lambs. As a burying place. And hence Moses took the bones of Joseph with him. And brought them to this burial place. And there the mighty dead received

the respect of the whole nation.

If you could look at that last scene and somehow get it fixed into your mind, the life of Joseph - he is now 110 years old. His children and his childrens' children are by his side. And these are his words, I die, but God shall surely visit you. And bring you out of this land into the land where he swear to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph touched the bones of his father's and saw the visions. And I commission you to lay my bones in a resting place in the land of Israel.

This was his right. In fulfilling this commission. We do not think of these in our memories of the dead, they are our living saints. If the bones are mighty, how much more the mightier of them as we see them with the light of life upon their faces. As we mourn then, we summons them to service and to serve us. And we need to translate this into a powerful experience.

This is the fulfillment of the ancient prophesy. That Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel. And in God's plan and purposes, they planted him in the proper resting place. The last few words of life are often most valuable. And impressive. God can kindle the fire of prophesy in the soul of a dying saint. And it can bring much to those who sorrow.

As (Sir William Nichols) said, the darkest days of World War II - Heb. 9:22 without the shedding of blood, there is no - and then he paused, he looked around in a most impressive way and then added, there is nothing, there is no country, no civilization, there is no Christianity! And this was followed by a great and timely message, on the meaning of sacrifice.

And as America comes to another Memorial Day, the rich memory and respect that we have for those who have passed on. How much do we owe those who have

sacrificed their lives for others. Others have labored and entered into our labors. But here is our inheritance which is long and rich. We owe a great debt as we think of those that are scattered out over the country, in the town, in the city, in the cemetery - many have monuments and many do not.

Our hearts pour out sympathy today to mothers, wives, fathers, sisters and brothers of those brave soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice in wars. And our prayers go up for these families, and for all those who have lost or given in any way individuals through the supreme sacrifice. We would respect their memory today as this is Memorial season when the whole nation assembles to pay tribute to the memory of all of our heroes who have fallen.

We need to have some reaction to patriotism again. To law and order, to truth and righteousness, to humanity and to God. To be a patriot means more than just to salute the star-spangled banner. But it means that we must be at our best. If you would be a good citizen and be true and stand for the principles of this country. The man who reserves the right to disobey any law whatsoever, because it does not please him - he is a constructive anarchist. The only liberty we know is liberty under law. And so called individual freedom which is being merged with social freedom, is no freedom at all. No man in America is free to do what he pleases. Unless he pleases Almighty God and has respect for the rights of other men.

We can never close our account with those who died for us on the field of honor.

The task of the church is to bring the new glory, the kingdom of God to earth.

Harry Lauder stood by the grave of his boy and said, Oh God, that I could

have one request, if I would - it would be that I might embrace my boy again and thank him for what he did for his country and humanity. (1)

The best way to thank the dead, the mighty dead is to complete the task that they began.

Yes, we need to thank those who have died. And we need to remember this hour on this day, that we have an account that needs to be fulfilled. And the measure of life is not the span of it but the use that is made of it.

All of us are not called upon to die heroically or sacrificially but we should never be ashamed that we are alive. And we ought to dedicate our lives to the highest and the noblest and to determine to live as best we can as a soldier of our Saviour. He wanted us to do with out lives, and some of us may be called upon to sacrifice our pride, our pleasure, our prosperity for our blessed Lord.

When the emperorist of Ireland went down, with 130 salvation army officers on board, 109 officers were drown. And not one body that was picked up had on a life belt. The few survivors told how the salvation army officers, finding there were not enough life preservers, took off their own belt, and strapped them even upon strong men - saying, (I can die better than you can) And from the depth of that sinking ship, flew their battle cry around the world.

That is the challenge tonight of the mighty dead. There are those who have died. And have died for others. And Joseph lived his life, and made the request, and they recollected the prophesy - and they had great respect for the mighty dead.

I trust this challenge will have something for you - and that you will  
though there are the mighty dead, let us become the mighty  
this, we need the mighty Saviour to show us how to live.

leaving.

... or else she would have brought him to

grave and looked down the long lines on  
she realized that every black cross meant  
she had meant as much to some mother  
to her. In her mind she seemed to  
standing by the grave next to her, angry  
the side of the soldiers who had made  
many mothers there would be if one  
and black cross! Oh, how much  
suffered! Unconsciously there was  
of great tenderness. The little  
of enemies; they told the story of  
the call of their country to protect  
believed was evil.

at her white cross, "Mort pour la  
beautiful rose from the grave of her  
grave at the right which was marked  
then she laid flowers on all the black  
and the red poppies made the place  
love is big enough to take all boys

"I am glad now that my boy has  
boys who loved their homes and their  
to blame. When they have been  
for their country.' How beautiful  
how much better than if all the  
Franklin's grave. I am sure he

west and the sky was alight with  
with a long last look she went back  
deeply of what she had seen.  
behind her she said: "God  
all, and help the mothers of the  
war impossible. Here they