

## SERMON NOTES - Remembrance day - War and Peace

**Remembrance Day** (also known as **Poppy Day** owing to the tradition of wearing a remembrance poppy) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" of 1918, in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente.

Today we MOURN war - that it has been necessary, and that brave people have had to sacrifice their lives to prevent evil. War Is Horrific, but what is God's view of war?

**WAR** - What does it teach us?

James 4:1-3 - "1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your **desires for pleasure that war in your members**? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."

- War shows / proves:
  - We cannot solve things ourselves
  - Sin causes damage & death and needs to be redressed by payment but we as humans still can't fix it
- How it plays out in large, medium, family and individual contexts -
  - Selfishness, desires, bad motives
  - Offence, pain and damage
  - Try to resolve - but misunderstood and mixed motives
  - Withdraw and isolate / Lash out to harm
  - The solution is only in Christ

**WAR** - is now **necessary** but it will be finished one day

Deu 1:29-30 NKJV - "29 "Then I said to you, 'Do not be terrified, or afraid of them. 30 'The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,"

Exo 15:3 NKJV - "3 The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name."

Psa 144:1 NKJV - "Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle--"

Isaiah 2:4 NKJV - "4 He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore."

Eze 33:11 NKJV - "11 "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"

**WAR** - in the **Old Testament**. / War in the **New Testament** -

In the OT - it was necessary to achieve His purpose / counsel - ie to ensure His rescue plan of Jesus was achieved by wiping out a few nations that would have destroyed the Israelite nation, and thus stopped God's rescue plan.

Then...Jesus - A Spiritual War:-

Jn 12:31, NKJV - "31 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."

Luke 16:16 NKJV — "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

Matthew 11:11-13 NKJV — “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. “For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. Matthew 12:26-29 NKJV - "26 "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 "And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. 28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 "Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."

Colossians 2:15 NKJV - "15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

John 18:36 NKJV - "36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.""

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJV — For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Ephesians 6:10-20 NKJV - "10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the **preparation of the gospel of peace**; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

James 4:7 NKJV - "7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

## **PEACE -**

Worldly peace is temporary, unsatisfactory, selfish and it comes by manipulation, oppression, deceit / falsehood. Only God's peace lasts.

**PEACE OF GOD** - John 14:26-27 NKJV - "26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 "**Peace I leave with you**, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 20:21-23 NKJV - "21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.""

Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV - "6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Colossians 3:15 NKJV - "15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."

**PEACE WITH GOD** - Reconciling men and making peace - Romans 5:1-2 NKJV - "1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

### **PEACEMAKERS** -

Ephesians 2:11-19 NKJV - "11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For **He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation**, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,"

Matthew 5:9 NKJV - "9 Blessed are the **peacemakers**, For they shall be called sons of God."

Romans 12:18 NKJV - "18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, **live peaceably** with all men."

Romans 14:19 NKJV - "19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another."

2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV - "20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."

Philippians 2:2 NKJV - "2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

Colossians 3:13 NKJV - "13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

2 Timothy 2:23 NKJV - "23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife."

Hebrews 12:14 NKJV - "14 **Pursue peace** with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:"

James 1:19-20 NKJV - "19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

James 3:16-18 NKJV - "16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the **fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**"

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WRONG RESPONSES to conflict:-

1. Fight like the world fights - Fight people and try to use worldly methods. OR
2. Don't fight anything - be a Doormat. Be passive.

CORRECT RESPONSES to conflict:-

1. Get peace with God and from God and be a peacemaker
2. Proclaim His truth - the Gospel of Peace - to people and live it out in love
3. Fight and resist the Devil at every opportunity.

# Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.