



A Memorial Day Message based on Matthew 26:13

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com

“Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.”

- Inscription on “The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier”  
at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

**Matthew 26:6–16, NLT** -<sup>6</sup> Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. <sup>7</sup> While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over his head. <sup>8</sup> The disciples were indignant when they saw this. “What a waste!” they said. <sup>9</sup> “It could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.” <sup>10</sup> But Jesus, aware of this, replied, “Why criticize this woman for doing such a good thing to me? <sup>11</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup> She has poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial. <sup>13</sup> I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman’s deed will be remembered and discussed.” <sup>14</sup> Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests <sup>15</sup> and asked, “How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?” And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

# Thoughts of Remembrance

on this Memorial Day Weekend 2023

## 1. Thoughts about the Tomb and the soldiers that guard it.

The TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN (also known as the TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER) in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., where in 1921 we first laid an unknown soldier to rest. The site is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 day a year by specially trained members of the U.S. Army—specifically, the Third United States Infantry Regiment (also known as the “Old Guard”). There is incredible imagery that surrounds the Tomb.

## 2. The sentinels that guard the Tomb take an oath.

After memorizing word-for-word and being tested on a 17-page document on the history of the Tomb and Arlington National Cemetery, they take a brief “Remembrance Oath” that reads,

1. We will forever **mourn** the loss of the soldier(s) we guard.
2. We will forever **remember** the lives of the soldier(s) we guard.
3. We will forever be **thankful** for the lives of the soldier(s) we guard.

## 3. Notice the contrast between Mary and Judas in Matthew 26.

1. **Mary** is concerned about **giving** extravagantly to Jesus.
2. **Judas** is concerned about **getting** what he can from Jesus.
3. We are told to remember both.

**Matthew 26:13, NASB95** -<sup>13</sup> “Truly I (Jesus) say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her.”

### REMEMBERING THEM THEN:

#### *Mary*

**Mourned** that Christ would die.  
**Remember** Christ.  
**Thankful** for her Savior’s sacrifice.

#### *The Sentinels*

**Mourn** the lives lost in war  
**Remember** them.  
**Thankful** for the sacrifice made.

### REMEMBERING THIS NOW:

#### *Regarding Christ*

**Mourn** that Christ died.  
**Remember** Christ.  
**Thankful** for our Savior’s sacrifice.

#### *Regarding the US Soldiers that Died*

**Mourn** the lives lost in war.  
**Remember** them/left behind.  
**Thankful** for the sacrifice made.