

## Honor and Service through Humility

### May 30, 2010

- **Picture of the Medal of Honor**
    - [http://infosecurity.us/images/Medal\\_of\\_Honor.jpg](http://infosecurity.us/images/Medal_of_Honor.jpg)
  - Good morning. my name is Mark Malcolm. I worship and serve here at ECUMC and I'm honored and humbled to have been asked by Pastor Brian to deliver the message this Memorial Day Sunday
  - We call our military personnel Service members because their participation in the United States Armed Forces is a service to all Americans.
  - Jesus Christ gave us an example of service as well in John 13:12-17
    - <sup>12</sup> So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?
    - <sup>13</sup> Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am.
    - <sup>14</sup> If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.
    - <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.
    - <sup>16</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.
    - <sup>17</sup> If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.
  - Christ is worthy of all honor and glory per God himself
    - <sup>4</sup> What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?<sup>5</sup> For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
- Psalms 8:4-5 (KJV)
- Honor and glory for our service members usually take the form of a medal. The highest award in the United States military is the Medal of Honor
  - Its correct name is the Medal of Honor - not the Congressional Medal of Honor though the president does award it in the name of the congress.
  - More than 3400 of these have been awarded
  - 21 Medals of Honor accredited to Georgia
    - 1 Civil War
    - 2 Indian Wars
    - 6 WWII
    - 3 Korean War
    - 9 Vietnam
  - Joe Jackson from Newnan, GA
    - May 10, 1968 Kham Duc special forces camp under attack
    - May 11, 1968 all surrounding outposts defending Kham Duc are taken. Evacuation to begin at day break the next day
    - May 12, 1968 Evacuation begins with all forces experiencing intermittent communications blackouts and loosing one C130 to enemy fire in the hills with another down on the runway. Many, many helicopters are also downed to enemy fire

- Joe Jackson is on a 'milk run' from Danag to a base near the DMZ undergoing his bi-annual flight check because his flight is deemed non-hazardous
- From 3:25 to 4:00PM 6 flights land and take off, though all sustain heavy damage nearly crippling all the flights as they leave.
- 4:33 PM the special forces team are the last to leave Kham Duc via helicopter.
- Within minutes Spare 808 lands at the base and unloads three Combat controllers who have been ordered to coordinate the incoming and outgoing evacuation flights. They are unaware the evacuation has already been completed as their plane leaves under fire.
- As Spare 808 leaves he over hears radio traffic from command. The entire base is to be leveled by artillery fire as all friendly forces are believed to be evacuated. Spare 808 frantically informs command three troops are on the ground at Kham Duc.
- Joe Jackson overhears the frantic radio message and announces to his crew, 'We're going in.'
- Joe's C-130 lands amid a hail of machine gun fire and mortar rounds trying to stop the rescue. The plane frantically rumbles to a stop near where the combat controllers are hiding and they board.
- Just as Joe turns his aircraft to leave, an enemy soldier fires a 122mm rocket which will surely destroy the aircraft, but it sputters and bounces on the ground breaking in half ten meters from the aircraft as Joe pushes the engines to their limits and escapes amid more mortar and machine gun fire.
- Back at Danag Joe walks around his aircraft and finds not a single bullet hole or damage of any kind.
- **Picture of the Rescue**
  - <http://www.homeofheroes.com/wings/jackson.html>
- The President of the United States  
in the name of The Congress  
takes pleasure in presenting the  
Medal of Honor  
to

*Rank and organization:* Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force, 311th Air Commando Squadron, Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. *Place and date:* Kham Duc, Republic of Vietnam, 12 May 1968. *Entered service at:* Noonan, Ga. *Born:* 14 March 1923, Newnan, Ga.

*Citation:*

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Lt. Col. Jackson distinguished himself as pilot of a C-123 aircraft. Lt. Col. Jackson volunteered to attempt the rescue of a 3-man USAF Combat Control Team from the special forces camp at Kham Duc. Hostile forces had overrun the forward outpost and established gun positions on the airstrip. They were raking the camp with small arms, mortars, light and heavy automatic weapons, and recoilless rifle fire. The camp was engulfed in flames and ammunition dumps were continuously exploding and littering the runway with debris. In addition, 8 aircraft had been destroyed by the intense enemy fire and 1 aircraft remained on the runway reducing its usable length to only 2,200 feet. To further complicate the landing, the weather was deteriorating rapidly,

thereby permitting only 1 air strike prior to his landing. Although fully aware of the extreme danger and likely failure of such an attempt, Lt. Col. Jackson elected to land his aircraft and attempt to rescue. Displaying superb airmanship and extraordinary heroism, he landed his aircraft near the point where the combat control team was reported to be hiding. While on the ground, his aircraft was the target of intense hostile fire. A rocket landed in front of the nose of the aircraft but failed to explode. Once the combat control team was aboard, Lt. Col. Jackson succeeded in getting airborne despite the hostile fire directed across the runway in front of his aircraft. Lt. Col. Jackson's profound concern for his fellowmen, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Air Force and reflect great credit upon himself, and the Armed Forces of his country.

- Men and women not just here in the US but all over the world give up their time and sometimes their lives in the service of their countries.
  - Most don't do it for a medal, so why do they do this?
- Did any who served do it for money?
- Do any of those who sacrifice in the service of their country gain personally from a wealth stand point?
- If they didn't do it for wealth, why did they do it?
- We call people who serve their country honorable.
  - Why does their service bring them honor?
  - Why does their service make them honorable?
  - How do you get honor?
  - How is service honorable?
  - What is Honor?
- Four main components to honor as broken down in Proverbs 3
  - Obedience (v.1-6)
    - Obedience to God's word in the Bible
  - Humility (v.7-12)
    - Acknowledging everything we have from possessions to skills comes from God
  - Wisdom (v.13-20)
    - Gain the wisdom of God's word through continuous study of the Bible
  - Charity (v.27-35)
    - The willingness to use all we have been given from God for the betterment of His kingdom and His agenda, not ours. Service
- <sup>23</sup> A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit  
Prov 29:23 (KJV)
- Honor is something others can give us, but which we cannot take.
- Honor cannot be earned either by the simple act of amassing points or doing X of some good act, but it can be lost.
- Catch 22: Honor can only be gained then when we are not trying to get it in the first place.
- So, how then can we begin down this road to becoming humble and earning honor without seeking to earn it? Proverbs 3:7-12 gives us a starting point but lets look at the verses somewhat out of order
  - First the things to do

- <sup>7</sup> Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.
      - Be humble
      - Fear God removing His protective hand from over us so we are working harder to please Him
      - Depart from the things He's said He doesn't like, which we can understand better through personal study of His word
    - <sup>9</sup> Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
      - Simply put our instruction in God's word is to tithe our first fruits, which is a tenth off the top rather than what we find left over after we're done ourselves
  - Now the Why of doing it
    - <sup>8</sup> It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.
      - Doing these things keeps us both spiritual and physically healthy
    - <sup>10</sup> So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.
      - Scripture says our obedience to God's word will be rewarded, though in ways He approves and not necessarily in ways we want
- Performing acts of service for the expressed purpose of gaining honor nullifies the goodness of the deed
  - Our hearts must be right for the effort to count
 

<sup>25</sup> But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit *done* unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>26</sup> Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, *both* he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

<sup>27</sup> And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honour:  
2 Chron 32:25-27 (KJV)
  - From a humble heart King Hezekiah gained honour, but not only honour but actual wealth as well because he was not seeking it in the first place
- We're human beings. We make mistakes. Fortunately God is prepared for us to forget He's in charge and try to install our own plans.
  - <sup>11</sup> My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: <sup>12</sup> For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

Proverbs 3:11-12

- Lets think about that for a minute
- The Grand Creator of everything, the Master of all the heavens declares in His own word He will take a personal interest in our individual lives to ensure we are on track with His plan.
- We are going to have celebrity coaching on life from no less a power the One who started it all. One on One time with the One.
- Why will He do this? Verse twelve says it's because He loves us

- Memorial Day is here to honor those members of the armed forces who sacrificed themselves for our safety and freedoms. We are called to remember their sacrifice and not take those freedoms for granted on this one day. We do this because they served us. We are asked to honor those current service members frequently by going up to them and shaking their hand thanking them for their service. The military recognizes these people sometimes with medals such as the Medal of Honor. I contend on the other 364 days of the year we remember to honor the first person who gave His all for our ultimate freedom by performing whatever act of service God granted each of us the gifts and talents to perform. How we fulfill that charge is between each of us and our personal savior. I invite you to seek the road to honor in whatever way you feel called to pursue be it through personal study of God's word, corporate confession here today, or a private conversation with the clergy of this or any other church. Military members sacrifice and earn for themselves a medal. Christ sacrificed and earned for all of us His medal which many of us wear today. Let Jesus' Medal of Honor remind us the Honor of God can be gained through our service to and for others.