

I had the honor of being part of the Memorial Day program here in Buffalo Center last week. I led the opening and closing prayer at the auditorium and then shared a few words at the cemetery. It is those “few words”, the preciousness of life, that I want to reflect on some more. You see, **life is out of our control**. We cannot create life on our own, for only God can give life, but we most certainly can take life. **Life is fragile**. You can be here one moment and gone the next. Though our bodies are amazing things, no one is guaranteed tomorrow. And lastly, **when life ends, it ends**. We cannot stop that. Sure, through technological means we can delay death and even prolong life, but really, is that life? And so, when you reflect on life; it’s fragility and thus preciousness, it is absolutely amazing and humbling that people would knowingly and willingly put their own lives on the line for someone else. And not just someone else, but for those they do not even know and for those who would reject and protest them. It takes a special kind of person to do such a thing for people.

Yes, our service men and women are indeed special people. Police officers, paramedics, and fire fighters are also special people. And this list goes on, so please do not be offended if I missed someone. My point is the sacrifice that people make for others is something to recognize and honor. It is something in which to be thankful. Knowing the value of life, and the fact that some value life in general over their own shows an incredible love.

Now, let’s take this even further; infinitely further – Jesus. The very Son of God laid down his even more precious life, FOR YOU. He laid down his life for those who would deny him and desert him. He laid down his life for those who would mock him and deride him. Jesus laid down his life and took the wrath of God that you deserve. He took the punishment due your sins. His life was rejected by his own people that your life would not be rejected by God. All of this was done because to God, **your life is so very precious**. You see, God created your life. He created all life. From the very moment you were conceived, your life started to take shape. God was weaving and molding every bit of your being together. You were created in His image. So yes, you are precious and worth saving.

Do me a favor. Look in the mirror and see a precious life. Now hear this, Jesus died for the forgiveness of your sins that your precious life could live forever.

To God be all glory, praise, honor, thanksgiving and worship through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.