

# Memorials

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- I. **The memorials we build and honor are significant, because clear memories of the past prepare us for a better future (E.g., Lincoln Memorial, Battleship Arizona Memorial).**
  - A. The desecration of memorials during the recent national unrest is meant to influence our interpretation of historical events and our perception of who we are as a people.
  - B. God's people in the Old Testament set up memorials to shape the future of new generations so that their descendants would respond to the world according to God's point of view.
    1. Example of Jacob and the stones of remembrance he set up 4,000 years ago (Genesis 28:10-22). This memorial is still shaping history today.
    2. The twelve stones Joshua took from the Jordan River and set up at Gilgal were important for Israel's perception of their identity and future among the surrounding nations (Joshua 4:1-9, 19-24).
    3. Samuel and the Ebenezer stone, "Stone of Help" (I Samuel 7:10-13)
- II. **Two memorial lifestyles that always get heaven's attention: prayers and gifts to the poor (Acts 10:1-8). "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God" (Acts 10:4).**
  - A. In the story of Peter and Cornelius, we see how God worked through them to write a new redemptive history.
  - B. Cornelius' prayers and gifts to the poor are called "a memorial offering before God." Similarly, today we remember God in these ways; and He remembers us. This causes redemptive history to progress in our lives and the people's lives around us.
  - C. Peter was also praying as his destiny with the Gentiles unfolded (Acts 10:9-29; 11:15-18).
  - D. Jesus was very clear about the lifestyle of prayer and generosity, and the legacy it leaves behind.
    1. Prayer (Matthew 18:18-20)
    2. Generosity and the woman who gave extravagantly (Matthew 26:6-13)
  - E. The many expressions of prayer and generosity flowing from our church to the community
- III. **Remember that your testimonies are the gateway to your ministry to the world (Acts 3:6-10).**
  - A. "Silver or gold I do not have; but what I do have, I give to you" (Acts 3:6).
  - B. What is your story so far? Remember to give it away to others.