

SLIDE 1

Dying to Win

Memorial Day 2010
David J Dahms
Lazy Mountain Bible Church

Introduction

Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael A. Monsoor fought dozens of battles in the streets of Ramadi, shouldering his MK48 machine gun without complaint in the 130-degree heat of [Iraq's](#) violent Anbar province.

SLIDE 2

On Sept. 29, 2006, an action of selfless valor would cost Monsoor his life -- and save the lives of three comrades. For that act, he was posthumously be awarded a Medal of Honor on April 8, 2008, at the White House by president George Bush.

SLIDE 3

Monsoor "distinguished himself through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life," said an official summary of action. He is the first sailor and the third service member overall to receive a Medal of Honor for actions in the war in Iraq.

SLIDE 4

That September morning, Monsoor and a group of SEAL snipers took up position on a residential rooftop as part of an operation to push into a dangerous section of southern Ramadi.

SLIDE 5

Four insurgents armed with AK-47 rifles came into view, and the SEAL snipers opened fire, killing one and wounding another. Loudspeakers from a mosque broadcast calls for insurgents to rally, and residents blocked off nearby roads with rocks.

SLIDE 6

Insurgents shot back at the SEAL position with automatic weapons from a moving vehicle and fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the building. The SEALs knew that more attacks were inevitable but continued their mission of protecting the troops clearing the area below, according to an official account.

SLIDE 7

Monsoor's commander repositioned him in a small hidden location between two SEAL snipers on an outcropping of the roof, facing the most likely route of another insurgent attack. As Monsoor manned his gun, an insurgent lobbed up a hand grenade, which hit Monsoor in the chest and bounced onto the roof.

"Grenade!" Monsoor shouted. But the two snipers and another SEAL on the roof had no time to escape, as Monsoor was closest to the only exit. Monsoor dropped onto the grenade, smothering it with his body. It detonated, and Monsoor died about 30 minutes later from his wounds.

SLIDE 8

"He made an instantaneous decision to save our teammates. I immediately understood what happened, and tragically it made sense to me in keeping with the man I know, Mike Monsoor," said Lt. Cmdr. Seth Stone, Monsoor's platoon leader in Ramadi.

None of us are left untouched by a story of selfless gallantry like this. Many things go through our mind. Here was a man who was one of the top in his class of Navy Seals—

SLIDE 9

When you think of the hours, and hours of brutal training they go through, the difficulty of even making the cut to be in the Navy Seal class. And in a moment, in a blink of an eye he makes a decision that saves the life of three. One life given for three.

Tomorrow the whole nation stops at 3 PM to remember those who gave their life in service to our country. In 234 years of our countries existence, 651,030 have given the ultimate sacrifice—their lives.

SLIDE 10

Tomorrow is this their day and our day, our day to remember their sacrifice.

They gave their lives so that each of us, the 309,366,365 million now living as citizens of the United State might enjoy the freedom we enjoy. Our freedom has been bought with their lives, and the sacrifice and service of another 41,891,368, soldiers who have served actively in our military during war since 1776.

SLIDE 11

Knowingly or unknowingly these war dead that we honor followed in the footsteps of the greatest warrior in history—the Lord Jesus Christ. While our nations war dead died with a weapon in their hands, this great warrior died with a cross on his back.

He died because he had told others that there is not greater way to show your love. Turn with me in your bibles as we look at this Soldiers story.

His marching orders were these.

SLIDE 12

John 15:13 (ESV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

He was intent of fulfilling his mission even though he knew it would cost him his life. In fact he told his disciples this over, and over, that this was his mission, this was what he was born to do.

SLIDE 13

Matthew 20:18–19 (NIV)

¹⁸ “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

Now some take offense at referring to our savior as a warrior, you are in good company, even his disciples didn't like him speaking about this mission, but I assure you that the Scripture provides many references to Christ being a warrior.

Did you know that it is through battle that Christ will defeat Satan? This is spoken of from the very infancy of time, when God says to Eve that her seed, that is her offspring, and the serpent the devil.

We read in Genesis 3

SLIDE 14

Genesis 3:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, ...¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

And in the last book of the Bible this is fulfilled:

SLIDE 15

Revelation 2:27 (NIV)

²⁷ 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery' — just as I have received authority from my Father.

And

SLIDE 16

Revelation 12:5 (NIV)

⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

And in the last chapters, Christ comes, and completes his ultimate mission. At the cross he laid down his life and bought our freedom, and at the end he will come and defeat our enemy as a mighty warrior.

SLIDE 17

Revelation 19:11–16 (NIV)

¹¹ I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

SLIDE 18

¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

So this Memorial Day we can also remember our mighty warrior, who came with a mission, to lay down his life on the cross for us,

SLIDE 19

Romans 5:8 (ESV)

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

and then return as risen, mighty warrior to vanquish our enemy the devil and his followers in one last battle.

And what did Christ laying down his life for us accomplish? He shed his blood and secured our forgiveness, a place in heaven for us.

SLIDE 20

Revelation 1:5 (NLT)

⁵ All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us.

And prepared a place in heaven for us:

SLIDE 21

John 14:2–3 (NASB95)

² “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

And what kind of place is Jesus speaking about? This kind of place: Heaven.

SLIDE 22

Revelation 22:1–5 (NIV)

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

SLIDE 23

³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵

There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

So why are these verses so critical to us on Memorial Day?

Well let me ask you if that is a description of your future home—if we were to open up and read the Mat-Su Land Guide, and read this description of our future home, and we knew that death could never steal it from us, then we would no longer need to cling so desperately, so frantically, to life here on earth.

So my question would be, why would we believe it in a guide like this which will be obsolete in one month, but have trouble believing it in a life guide that has been around 2000 years and won't ever be obsolete?

Christ says, your future is taken care of. And here is your mission.

SLIDE 24

John 15:12–14 (ESV)

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

And here is the ultimate way to live out this mission—the same way I lived it out for you by laying your life down for your friends.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

This is our heritage, this is our promise. So why do we cling so desperately to life here, ignoring this command, when heaven is what awaits us.

It doesn't mean we have a death wish. God alone determines the day and the hour we enter into heaven. But it means we live differently on earth.

That we embrace the truth, Greater love has not one than this that he lay down his life for another.

Suddenly we see the truth, there is nothing greater that you can give to gain what you cannot ever lose.

That is what soldiers like Mike Monsoor did. They embraced this verse. And in death was awarded the highest honor the country can give. But we who have put our trust in Christ, know something even better awaits. And all we have to do is follow Christ's example and command.

SLIDE 26

Jim Elliot said it this way:

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

Jim Elliot

SLIDE 27

So tomorrow as you reflect on those who gave the ultimate to secure for us a free country, but also remember the soldier, Jesus Christ, who laid down his life, to secure for us, a place in heaven. And with courage take up our cross here on earth, ready to show the ultimate in love.

SLIDE 28