Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his **General Order No. 11**, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

I enjoy walking through History and looking at heroes and wondering what made them who they were.

Testament to the extent of the carnage and suffering during the battle was the story of **Richard Rowland Kirkland**, a Confederate Army sergeant with Company G, 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry. Stationed at the stone wall by the sunken road below Marye’s Heights, Kirkland had a close up view to the suffering and like so many others was appalled at the cries for help of the Union wounded throughout the cold winter night of **December 13, 1862**. After obtaining permission from his commander, Brig. Gen. **Joseph B. Kershaw**, Kirkland gathered canteens and in broad daylight, without the benefit of a cease fire or a flag of truce (refused by Kershaw), provided water to numerous Union wounded lying on the field of battle. Union soldiers held their fire as it was obvious what Kirkland’s intent was. Kirkland was nicknamed the "**Angel of Marye’s Heights**" for these actions, and is memorialized with a statue and marker on the **Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park** where he carried out his actions.

We all want to think that we would be heroes in moments like Richard Kirkland and what we do in situations can really alter our lives and history.

**I. KAIROS MOMENTS**

The Bible talks about these moments being **Kairos moments** "a passing instant when an opening appears which must be driven through with force if success is to be achieved.

Luke 19: 41 – 44 If you had only known on this day what would bring you peace. (Kairos Moment) they missed it and judgment is coming their way.

Wikopedia states that in Eastern Orthodox churches they start the service in latin and the meaning is “it is time(Kairos) for the Lord to act which is why we come together.

In history kairoi are those crises in history which create an opportunity for and indeed demand an existential decision by the human subject.

Chinese characters Kairos is perceived as a time of crisis and opportunity.
Jerusalem missed their Kairos moment so how can we be people who do not follow in their footsteps?

II. THE BIRTH OF A KAIROS MOMENT

Chad Taylor in an article on Kairos Moments stated they are revealed through prayer and completed in obedience. One cannot be fulfilled in the absence of the other. We are deceived to believe that prayer alone can steer a Kairos moment or action and activity can do the same. Both are needed to bring it into place.

Matthew 9: 6 – 8 Prayer and declaration came forth and put the Kairos moment into action, but it was not completed until he stood up and walked.

1. What would have happened if he continued to lie there?
2. What would have happened if he tried to walk without the word from Jesus?

How many times we lie crippled because we miss our Kairos Moments and decay comes into our lives like Jerusalem which missed the day of visitation.

Remember Kairos moments usually come in crisis so how can we make the right decision and bring birth to what God wants in our situation?

III. CRISIS MANAGEMENT

In the book Pivotal Praying it had three steps to help us in the midst of our crisis.

1. Ask God for wise thoughts
   Example: Test pilots have a litmus test for evaluating problems. When something goes wrong they ask “Is the thing still flying” if the answer is yes then there’s no immediate danger no need to overreact. When Apollo 12 took off, the spacecraft was hit by lightning. The lights were all blinking there was the temptation to do something, but the pilots asked themselves, “Is the thing still flying in the right direction?” The answer was yes-it was headed for the moon they let the lights glow as they addressed the individual problems and watched the orange and red lights turn off one by one. That’s something to think about in any pressure situation. If your thing is still flying think first and then act.

   Ask God for wisdom in the midst of a crisis situation because you are in control and you know what to do. Throughout Jesus ministry Peter always felt the need to react and say and do something. This usually lead to disaster or rebuke.

2. Ask God for wise words to say.

   Mark Twain said the difference between the right word and the nearly right word is the difference between lightening and a lightening bug.
EXAMPLE: I am about to meet my family in this crisis, God don’t let me say anything stupid.

3. Ask God for wise counsel

James 1:5 if any of you lack wisdom, he should ask of God who gives liberally.

4. Ask God that the situation would not deteriorate anymore

Jim Cymbala was frustrated that the ministry at Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York was deteriorating he did not want to miss God and just bide time. He cried out for God to change me, the church, our passion for people our praying. Today Brooklyn Tabernacle is one of the most respected churches in the nation.

IV. OUR KAIROS MOMENT

Remember our definition a Kairos moment must be driven through with force.

Profound moment in our lives and the life of the church.

A time of crisis in the church and the world as we wait for the church to arise and seize the moment that God has laid out before us.

God is bringing people across your path who are in this crisis moment and you are being called upon to bring them that encounter with Jesus Christ and command them to rise up and walk.

Is this too much, Joshua grasped the power of all of heaven working for us when we are in the midst of a God ordained moment. He commanded the sun and moon to stand still in the midst of a battle and they obeyed.

What if I make a mistake and blow it?

EXAMPLE: 1914 a fire in West Orange New Jersey heavily damaged Thomas Edison’s home and destroyed about a million dollars worth of equipment along with a lot of paperwork containing details of his inventions. Walking about the charred embers of his hopes and dreams the following morning the sixty-seven year old inventor said. “There is value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Now we can start anew.”

Liturgy “It is time for God to act on behalf of his people