***Isaiah 49:14-16 But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me.”***

***15“Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb?
Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. 16See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.***

 Memorial Day is a day specifically set aside to remember… to remember those that died while serving our nation in the military. It’s a day to consider the lives lost, the families changed, and the sacrifices made for our nation and our people. Often, the focus is on cookouts and time off. I don’t believe for one second that the men and women that gave their lives would be offended by this – happy children eating watermelon, playing in pools, and chasing lightning bugs late into the evening. But let us never forget the day we enjoy came at great cost. It is a day to remember those who laid down their lives for those they called friends.

 Our God is a God of remembrance. God remembers. God doesn’t need a day to remember. He remembers. Sometimes, when we’re in a low place in life or in a particularly difficult situation, we’re tempted to think that God has forgotten us. Listen to Isaiah 49:14 *But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me.”* The word forgotten in this verse has the idea of God being oblivious and not really caring or being concerned about His people. But 1 Peter 5:6-7 tells us this *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you*.

 The issue is not that God forgets us. It’s that we forget God. Just as we forget and take for granted the sacrifice of the men and women that died in service, we too often take God for granted. We forget Him and then accuse Him of forgetting us. But God helps us by bringing Himself to our minds in many different ways - through things in nature like rainbows, through songs and devotionals, through the gift of His Word in the Bible, through brothers and sisters in Christ, and by way of the Holy Spirit. Life is filled with reminders of God. Be still. We have to be still… and know that He is God.

 Verse 15 *“Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.* Now I know there are bad mothers, but the vast majority of mothers are incredible! The very same God that made good mothers that love their babies, the God that created love and the bonds between mother and child is a more perfect Parent than the best mother and father that have ever lived. He will never fail and will never forget His children.

 God never forgets you. He never forgets us; yet, in the press of life, the frantic noise each day, we too often forget God. We forget to praise Him for the health to rise in the morning; the blessing of feeding and dressing our children; the gift of a place to call home at the end of our day. Be still and pause – God is found in the silence and our deepest memories are found there too. Time with Him as the day begins brings clarity and peace that last well after the day ends.

 Verse 16 *See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.* Years ago, I had a friend that always had things written on his hands. I asked him once why he didn’t just carry a list. He smiled and said, “This way there’s no danger of me forgetting… my hands go with me everywhere.” God’s hands go with Him everywhere.

 Is God inscribed on our hearts? Is He engraved upon our minds? Is He priority above all? In Genesis, God remembered Noah. God remembered Abraham and Sarah as they prayed for an heir. God remembered Hannah’s prayer. God heard Joseph in the pit, Hezekiah and Daniel. He remembered Zacharias and Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna. He remembers you. They all remembered God – they drew near to Him and He drew near to them. We too must draw near to God. Inscribe Him on the heart, engrave Him on the mind, make Him a priority in life.

 The last part of verse 16 says – *Your walls are continually before Me*. In ancient times, walls were built around cities to protect. When enemies approached, the people went inside the walls and the gates were closed. God is sending us a clear message here – His eyes are always on our protection. He is not absentee. Psalm 46:1 says *God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.* He is a very active and engaged help in trouble.

 This Memorial Day, let’s remember the fallen. Recall the families and loved ones that sacrificed and were forced to live on without those they lost. But make time to also remember the One that never fails to remember you. God calls us to remember. He is the God of Memorial. May we set aside time each day to remember and pursue Him. The weekend, make remembrance a priority. Remember the sacrifice of the fallen and the unchanging love of our God.