

## Introduction:

If you are like me you paid extra attention to the events on June 6th. That is because 75 years ago the Allied forces engaged in a great battle. Europe was under Nazi control and the only way to beat Hitler was to reclaim that which he had taken. His strategy was called "Fortress Europe" where the beaches and coastline served as a wall against the Allies. At Normandy over 130,000 men landed, over 160,000 total men were involved in the invasion. This was a risky endeavor as everything was on the line. Preparation, training, organizing, equipment, and of course many lives were at stake. Let me make a few remarks concerning those men.

### I) Those Men

#### A) **They left behind their homes to go to a hostile place.**

1. Many like Leon Stevens, grew up in small places, like Cashe,. Arkansas. Some came straight from the farm to enlist in the army. Others lived in big cities but they all were involved.
2. The beaches or Normandy were a killing field as thousands would die on those beaches. It is hard to be more hostile than death.

#### B) **They were like us.**

1. Looking at the pictures of those men one sees people who look like you and I.

2. U.S. policy was not to send anyone into combat before they turned 19 years old. Many of those young men were just 19 years old.

**C) There were motivated by love**

1. First a love for their family back home. They realized the threat of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan was a real threat to their love ones.
2. Second a love for their fellow soldiers. Soldiers fight for each other.

**D) Their sacrifice was real**

1. Many would never see their love ones again and their love one would never see them.
2. Those who survived would not be the same as some would bear the marks of physical injury, and also the mental carnage of war.

**E) Their victory was not immediate but it was certain**

1. It took days before a stable beach head was established.
2. Would German soldiers counter attack, would U.S. soldiers be able to hold on. In the end the answer was yes.

**II) Applied To Jesus**

**A) He left behind His home in heaven.**

1. When Jesus left heaven He home, *John 17.5*
2. He came to earth not to be treated as King but to be mistreated, abused, reviled, and killed. *Matthew 20.28*

**B) He became like us**

1. That very thought is hard to imagine.
2. He was God with us, *Matthew 1.23*.
3. Why take on a physical body?
  - a. So as to be tempted as we are, *Hebrews 4.15*.
  - b. So as to have a body that could be killed, crucified on the cross, *Hebrews 2.17*.

**C) He was motivated by His love for us, *John 3.16***

1. *John 15.13* Jesus explains why He was going to die for them.
2. To go one step further, no greater love than to die for one's enemies, *Romans 5.8*

**D) His sacrifice was real**

1. He gave up heaven to live here, He was mistreated by His fellow Jews and the Romans.
2. He suffered the most painful death imaginable, *John 19.34*

**E) His victory was not obvious at first but it was complete**

1. The disciples at first felt defeated, *Luke 23.53*
2. Only after three days did they start to see the victory Jesus had won, *Luke 24.3ff*
3. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter explained what had happened, *Acts 2.23-24*.

**Conclusion:**

Those who took part in D-Day have been called heroes and so they are. But the greatest victory ever delivered to mankind was when Jesus came to this earth, lived, died, and was raised.