Compass Life Adult Sunday School

Jay Wertin – July 29, 2018

**“Douglas MacArthur”**

**I. Five Causes of the Korean War**

*1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*: The end of World War II meant the restoration of peace and prosperity for most of the world. For Korea it meant a freedom they hadn’t experienced since Japan annexed them in 1903. Many Koreans were anticipating a united Korean Peninsula, but the entry of the USSR into the war against Japan in the waning months of WWII would prove to make that impossible. The Soviets agreed to join the war against Japan after the Yalta Conference in February of 1945. They began to drive the Japanese out of the northern part of Korea and set up roads and lines of communication all the way down to the 38th parallel.

*2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*: With troops heading home after the surrender of Japan in August of 1945, the U.S. presence in Korea went from a garrison 40,000 soldiers to a small advisory team of 472 officers and men. The Korean army in the south was armed with light weapons, while the Soviet backed Korean army in the north was heavily equipped with tanks and other armored vehicles.

*3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*: It was clear by the end of WWII that the philosophical differences between the U.S. and the USSR were breaking down their short-lived alliance. The Soviets wanted to expand the sphere of communism in Korea, while the U.S. wanted to promote democracy. The U.S. stressed the importance of containment to halt the spread of communism.

*4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*: At the Potsdam Conference in the summer of 1945 it was decided that Korea be divided at the 38th parallel into a communist North Korea and democratic South Korea with the hope that the two would be united in the future. In 1947 the UN pushed for a united Korea with elections to be held in 1948. The USSR opposed these elections and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea was established in North Korea with Kim Il-Sung as prime minister. The U.S backed Syngman Rhee was elected as president of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). Both countries claimed sovereignty over the whole Korean Peninsula.

*5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*: While articulating the guidelines of the U.S. foreign policy of Containment, Secretary of State Acheson indicated that it was a policy primarily non-military, with economic and military aid given to non-communist regimes in Asia. Military force would only be given to defend Japan, the Rykus islands and the Philippine Islands. South Korea was not on the list.

**II. A Brief History of the Episcopal Church**

The Episcopalian Church has its roots in the Anglican Church which established itself at the founding of Jamestown, VA in 1607. While the “New World” continued to grow in size and population, the Church of England was also establishing churches. By the time of the American Revolution, Anglicans, Presbyterians & Congregationalists made up the three main religions in America. The Church of England was not popular during and after the American Revolution and Anglicans had lost their connection with England, so they reorganized into the Protestant Episcopal Church being ordained by Scottish bishops. Currently the Episcopal Church describes itself as “Protestant, yet Catholic.” The Book of Common Prayer is central to their worship and they ordain woman and LGBT people to the priesthood. As of 2016 the church had 1.7 million members, which has been steadily declining since the early 2000s.

**III. General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964)**

*Early Life*: Douglas MacArthur was born on January 26, 1880 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The family were members of Christ Episcopal Church where he was christened. His father, Arthur MacArthur was a Lt. General in the Civil War who earned the Medal of Honor for his heroics in the Battle of Missionary Ridge in November of 1863. His mother, Mary “Pinky” MacArthur, homeschooled her children and became very protective of her sons after the death of their middle son from measles when he was five. MacArthur graduated from West Texas Military Academy as valedictorian, where Bible was one of his core classes. He played quarterback, shortstop and tennis. He was rejected twice for entry into West Point before he finally entered in June of 1899. He played on the baseball team and when he graduated first in his class in 1903 he had the third highest score ever recorded in the history of the school.

*WWI*: Leading up to WWI, the U.S. was concerned about invasion from Mexico and ordered the occupation of Veracruz in 1914. Captain MacArthur led an unauthorized team on a mission which earned him consideration for the Medal of Honor, but was denied. War was declared on Germany in 1917 and Major MacArthur lobbied for the formation of the 42nd “Rainbow” Division, made up of national guardsman from a number of different states. The Rainbow Division was involved in numerous battles and offensives for which MacArthur earned many honors, swiftly rising through the ranks from Major to Brigadier General by the end of the war.

*WWII*: Between the wars from 1919 to 1941, MacArthur continued his military career as the youngest Superintendent of West Point since 1817 and promoted to major general also the youngest to do so. He got married, served in the Philippines, was President of the American Olympic Committee, got divorced, became the youngest Army Chief of Staff at 50, got remarried, had a child, and returned again to the Philippines as Field Marshal of the Philippine Army. It was while in the Philippines that MacArthur, at the age of 61, was called back to active duty as commander of the Army’s Far East Forces to prepare for its defense against the Japanese, who attacked the Philippines the day after Pearl Harbor. An unprepared MacArthur was pinned and eventually ordered to leave in March of 1942 with a vow to return. And return he did in October of 1944 after 2 years of successful campaigning in the South Pacific. Less than a year later Japan surrendered and as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, General MacArthur was in charge of helping rebuild Japan. During this rebuilding, MacArthur showed his astute leadership and commitment to Christian principles. While many of the allied nations were wanting to exact revenge on the Japanese, MacArthur was trying to rebuild a country in the image of the U.S. in its governmental structure, economy, and religion. The major political, social and economic reforms instituted by MacArthur laid the groundwork for Japan to become one of the world’s leading industrial powers.

*Korean War*: The tensions over the five years since the end of WWII continued to grow between the two Koreas. On June 25, 1950 North Korea, with the backing of communist China and the Soviet Union, attacked across the 38th parallel. President Truman pushed for and received UN military support for a “Police Action” to repel the North Korean army and ultimately communism. General MacArthur, now 70 years old, was still overseeing the Japanese reconstruction, but his forces were immediately called to Korea. By September the North Korean army had taken all but a small portion of the peninsula. It was MacArthur’s brilliant and decisive invasion at Inchon that cut off the North Korean supply and communication lines and began to drive their army back across the 38th parallel and beyond. The U.S. saw this as an opportunity to eradicate communism from Korea and by late November had pushed northern forces all the way up to the Yalu River on the Chinese border. Unfortunately on November 27, 1950, over 400,000 Chinese soldiers poured across the border and forced the UN troops below the 38th parallel. MacArthur advocated for bombing the Chinese mainland and blockading their coast. However, President Truman rejected the strategy, not wanting to risk escalating this “Police Action” into WWIII by inciting China and the USSR. MacArthur publicly criticized Truman and he was promptly relieved of his command for his actions. A stalemate ensued until July 27, 1953 when an armistice was signed.

**IV. Lessons From the Life of Douglas MacArthur**

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*: Many believed MacArthur was a prideful and arrogant man. Certainly many of the things he said and did reflected this attitude, but God clearly hates this character in his creation. James 4:6

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: MacArthur was disrespectful a number of times in his career. He would ignore the orders of his superiors or just do his own thing without approval. Rom. 13:1

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: MacArthur showed discernment and wisdom in how he commanded and cared for those under his command, especially in knowing people’s need for God. 1 Kings 3:9

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: MacArthur proved to be a man of his word throughout his life and career. He did what he said he would do and he led a disciplined life to accomplish it. Proverbs 11:3

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: MacArthur was a gifted strategist and leader of men. He used that giftedness for over 60 years in service to his country. He persevered even though he had many opportunities to be done. 1 Peter 4:10-11

**8/5 “Navigating Famous Museums: The British Museum”**