

Sermon Notes – 05.25.2025 - Laying Down Our Life for Others

This is Memorial Day Sunday

By Way of Reminder – On Veteran's Day we remember all who served.

On Memorial Day we humbly remember those who concluded their service by making the greatest sacrifice one can make in service to our country – They laid down their lives.

Those who wore the uniform didn't make that decision on a battlefield one day. No, they made that decision before they put the uniform on. They pledged themselves, they signed the oath on their enlistment document. A day came when they raise their right hand and repeated those words. It's actually very powerful what a person promises when they join the military.

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

A website devoted to recruitment commented, "The military oath of enlistment or oath of office should not be taken lightly."

This weekend, we respectfully honor the memory of those who crossed that line, made the promise and sealed the promise with their life.

It has repeatedly stunned me to hear the heroes who survive that harrowing service, more or less uniformly say the same thing, "I'm not a hero, I was just doing my job."

Now, to God's Word -

John 15:12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. **13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 14 "You are My friends if you do what I command you.**

We Know John 3:16 & It Has a Companion

1 John 3:16-18 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? **18** Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

What Does it Mean for a Follower of Jesus to, " lay down our lives for the brethren?"

The Apostle John Tells Us How it Begins – In Spiritual Basic Training

When we see the needs we do not ‘close our heart against them’

We look to our ability and give

“For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what *a person* has, not according to what he does not have.’ 2 Corinthians 8:12

We Take Action: We do not “love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

More than Likely – We Will Not Actually Die in Carrying Out this Pledge – But, We Will Sacrifice

We Honor Christ’s Sacrifice When we “Walk in Love. Just as Christ Loved.”

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

The Strength Comes from the Holy Spirit Who Has Been “Poured Out Within Our Hearts”

Romans 5:3-5 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Christ Did What He Did Because of Who He Is – We Do What We Do Because of Who We Are in Him

Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Perhaps - Laying Down Our Lives May Come Down to Living Out This Conviction

Matthew 25:40 "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'