



THE DAILY

BIBLE STUDY FROM NEWPOINTE

Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day Pondering

BOTTOM LINE: Selfishness destroys relationships, while selflessness builds them up.

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

This is Memorial Day—a day when we slow down and gratefully remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to give us what we have. When soldiers sign up for duty, they know they are agreeing to give their lives for people they love, people they do not know, and even people with whom they do not agree. In the worst case scenarios, as in the cases of the ones we remember on this day, they *have* literally given their physical lives for the sake of others. But from the very beginning, leaving their homes and loved ones, enduring hardships as a soldier, they had laid down their lives. In many ways over many days, they put others first, and then they did make the ultimate sacrifice. We have what we have because of their unselfishness.

Very few of us will ever be asked to lay our lives down in a literal sense through death for someone we love. Those instances are few enough that when they occur, it makes the news. The way we generally show great love and sacrifice is behind the scenes, doing things that may never get public notice. But we are asked in countless small ways every day to lay down our lives in order to have Christ-like relationships. Great love is shown in the way we put aside our own conveniences, lay down our own preferences, refuse to insist on our own way, and pick up a life of unselfish service to the people we say we love.

- On this Memorial Day, as we remember those who gave their lives for our freedom, ask God to help you give your life in selfless serving. The relationships you build will be worth it.
- What can you do in the family celebration today to serve?