

Children's sermon: May 24, 2009
"Fred & Layla"

OK who is singing this song???? ----- yes, Eric Clapton!!
The name of the song? ----- "Layla" ...
Why do I like this song? ----- yes, Layla is my daughter!!

Which brings me to Fred ... and his friend Layla.
Do any of you know someone ... who only talks about himself/herself????
When you talk about yourself all the time ... this is how you sound: "\$%^#@&%\$!*&%\$!!"
That's Fred ... he loves talking about himself. How he and Layla ever became friends? ... well, I'll never know.
Because ... at least on this day ... Layla never talks about herself.

It's Memorial Day ... a day off school ... a holiday.
Fred wants Layla to do all kinds of things with him ---- go to the mall, hang-out, buy stuff, listen to music,
go to the beach, barbeque ...
Layla says ---- not today.
What are you going to do????
I'm just going to walk among the flowers.

Fred wonders ----- what's this all about???? ... walking among the flowers.

So, Layla spends Memorial Day ... taking a walk.
She looks at all the red and white flowers ... she sees the cemetery, where so many soldiers are buried.
She thinks about how lucky she is ... to live in a country, where we are free ... and where so many people
make sacrifices so we can share the gift of freedom.
Layla is thinking to herself ----- sometimes it's nice ... just to walk ... to say nothing at all.

It's late in the day ... and Layla goes to visit Fred.
*"Fred ... I have something for you ... it's a flag ... our country's flag.
You need to take this ... sit in silence in your yard ...
and think about what today stands for.
It's Memorial Day, Fred ... it's a time to remember and give thanks.
See you tomorrow."*

For once ... Fred is not talking about himself.
He is thinking ... even praying ... and saying "thanks" to those who make it possible for
him *to talk about himself*.

I have a gift for you, my friends ... from my daughter Layla.
What is it ???? ----- it's a *lei*.
How about this ... "a lei from Layla."
It's red, white, and blue ---- for you, for our veterans, for Memorial Day.

Take some time on Memorial Day ----- to think about what our country stands for.