

05-08-19 Wednesday Musing

Mother's Day is fast approaching, and I can state one thing with certainty... everybody has a mother... she may be in this present world or the next... but everybody's got one. In my time of contemplating what to write about for today's musing... Mother's Day seemed to dominate my thoughts. Mother's Day can be a joyous time... for some it can be a sad time... and for others still it can be a time that churns feelings of wrath due to someone feeling let-down or disappointed... even short-changed by God in the area of who was chosen as their Mother or the fact that they were never allowed the blessing of being one.

So just where did this Mother's Day holiday get its start... Mother's Day became a national holiday in 1914... over a hundred years ago... but the notion actually began many years before when Julia Ward Howe first proposed the idea in 1872. Howe, who wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic", saw Mother's Day as being dedicated to peace. Her idea being that Mother's Day could be used to help heal the scars which resulted from the Civil War.

But it isn't Howe that is recognized for the Mother's Day holiday... it was a woman, who never had children, born in West Virginia on May 1st, 1864. She was a woman defined by her faith, and very active in the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church community. Anna Jarvis attended college in Virginia, but eventually ended up in Philadelphia, Penn. where she moved in with her brother. Some years later, after the death of her father Anna tried to convince her mother to move from West Virginia to Philadelphia with Anna and her brother. Her mother refused, but in time was swayed to join her in 1904 when she suffered from heart problems. Anna spent much of her time tending her mother's health needs until her death in May of 1905.

Three years after her mother's death, on May 10th, 1908, Anna held a memorial ceremony to honor her mother... and all mothers at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Although Jarvis herself did not attend she sent five hundred white carnations for all who attended. She described the white carnation symbol as this:

"It's whiteness is to symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying. When I selected this flower, I was remembering my mother's bed of white pinks." — Anna Jarvis

Jarvis frequently referred to her mother's memory during her efforts to maintain the sentimental heart of the day while also maintaining her own role as the founder of the holiday. Commercialization bombarded the holiday with lasting impact. The commercial industrial forces were the confection, floral and greeting card industry. The symbols that she had valued for their sentimentality, such as the white carnation, easily became commodified and commercialized. The floral industry continued increasing the prices of white carnations and then introduced red carnations representing living mothers, while white carnations honored deceased mothers.

In later years Anna Jarvis became quite upset with the commercialization of the holiday which she established. She fought long and hard to abolish its existence. Her efforts ceased when

she was placed in a sanitarium. Anna Jarvis died on November 24th, 1948. A sad ending to the honorable thought of celebrating our Mothers...

I myself, almost always, have worn a red rose to church on Mother's Day Sunday... one day I'll switch that to white... but for now (thankfully) it will remain red. I never knew where this tradition began... but was brought up to know this was "the thing to do" on Mother's Day. I count myself blessed beyond words to know that God gave me a loving, caring, nurturing Mother. I know many are not so fortunate. But beyond that... I am blessed to have known or know several ladies in my lifetime that have "mothered" me or people who will let me "mother" them.

So as we go forward to celebrate Mother's Day... let us do it in word and deed... showing our love to those who have "mothered" us during our lifetime... with the hopes as stated in Proverbs 23:25 in the Amplified version of the Bible **"Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who gave birth to you rejoice [in your wise and godly choices]."**

As we pray for our Mothers this week, let's also lift women all over the world in all walks of life, that they may bring inspiration to those around them... that God would bless them in all they do and draw them ever closer to His side.

Also remember the family of Pat Sellars, Faye Strickland, Millie Fraser, Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, and friends: family of Barbara Smith, Daughter of Evelyn Rey—Carol Mitchell, Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, family of Dolly Watson, Sarah Wilson—Niece of Mike Smith, family of Steve Williams, brother of Jessie Falls.

Around the church... Friday, May 10th - 5pm - 7pm Annual Spaghetti Supper, Sunday, May 12 8:30 am Official Board & 11:45 am Board of Christian Education, Tuesday, May 14th 5:30pm Centennial Circle @ Cutting Board.

This weeks sermon title is "Being a Part of the Family of God" and the Scripture will be from John 17:13-23 and Galatians 3:26-29.

Happy Mother's Day!

Joan 😊

