

Commemorating Mothers Everyday

Dan Nelson – pastor

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

When Anna Jarvis first suggested to her pastor in 1908 that a Sunday morning worship service be dedicated to honoring mothers, she had no idea she would be birthing a movement. The concept resonated with the pastor of this local church since the principles of honoring parents and valuing motherhood are themes of Scripture. What began as a Bible sermon at an obscure house of worship became the spark that lit the wildfire that has blazed across America and far beyond. After only a few years, then President Woodrow Wilson had added the second Sunday in May to our national calendar and the spring season was forever brightened with another special day.

Our mothers deserve our appreciation, not merely for their hard work, which is incalculable, but for their heart work. The dedication in the heart of a mother is often the only thing that has kept the world turning for so many. From infancy we learn to depend on our mothers for everything. As we grow, we may need them less for our physical safety, but we always need their love. The emotional fortification in knowing that our mothers love us, no matter our faults, is the source of hope that many find to carry on in the midst of adversity. And if life ever feels harsh and it seems that everyone else has turned away, some have found their mother as the guiding light of compassion that sustains them through very dark seasons. Mothers are a gift from God!

The Bible portrays motherhood as a holy calling, worthy of admiration and respect. While the daily tasks that occupy a mother's duties may not always feel sanctified, God presents a picture in the Scripture of what He has in mind. When others get confused, she needs to know the truth of her worth. Doing dirty diapers and dishes may not feel critical to solving our global crises, but if only everyone on the earth had a mother who poured into their soul as God has ordained, there may be no need to fight over anything. It is interesting that God's plan requires that we all enter this life with some basic essentials, a father and a mother. With so many other variables that make up our differences, these ties bind us all together. We all need our mothers, not just to survive, but to thrive.

Last weekend we celebrated Mother's Day. I connected with my mom on the phone. At Calvary, we prayed over our mothers and gave them each a carnation and spoke of their purposeful role on this planet. In the afternoon, while many packed out restaurants throughout the county, our family stayed home and lit the barbeque and did our best to give Shelley a day of lifting and rest. Cards were homemade instead of Hallmark. Our entire family halted our schedule and invested time enjoying each

other. And before we ate our first bites of steak and salad, we prayed and thanked God for our mothers and grandmothers. It was a beautiful day.

So why am I writing about cherishing our mothers now when the holiday already came and went? Because we need to start a new movement! As Mrs. Jarvis and her pastor lit a match that started something great, you and I can take the next step. Let's make it a lifestyle of commemorating our mothers. By co-creating a collective magnum opus of valuing the key role of motherhood everyday, we might be able to affect the tide of cultural confusion that oppresses our moms and harms their hearts. The Bible tells us to honor our moms, not just once per year, but with our whole hearts all year through. How wonderful it is to know we can obey God by simply loving our moms!

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Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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Sunday Worship:

9:00 & 10:45am
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

Mid-Week Study:

7:00pm Thursday
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View