

MOTHERS ARE MOTHERS!

Exodus 20:12 Leviticus 19:3; 20:9 Deuteronomy 5:16 Ephesians 6:1-3

Introduction: Why are mothers honored in our nation on the second Sunday in May? Ceremonies in honor of mothers have been going on for centuries and have been called many things, honoring many kinds of "mothers." Some say that in England ceremonies in honor of Mary, the Mother of Christ began and in the 1600's young men and women who were working away from home would return to their homes on "Mothering Sunday" bringing small gifts and a special cake.

In our country of America interest in a Mother's Day began when two sisters were left alone after their mother died and one of the sisters, Anna Jarvis and her friends began to a campaign to gain support from influential ministers, businessmen and politicians in declaring a national Mother's Day holiday. The first Mother's Day observance was in Grafton, West Virginia and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 10, 1908. Red carnations came to represent a living mother and a white one signifying that one's mother was dead.

In May, 1913, a resolution was unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives requesting the President and all members of Congress to wear a white carnation on Mother's Day. Later on May 8, 1914, Congress declared that the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

I. THINGS THAT MOTHERS SAY:

1. Don't cross your eyes like that, what if your face should freeze?
2. What if everybody jumped off a cliff? Would you do it too?
3. Look at me when I'm talking to you! Don't you look at me like that!
4. You eat everything on your plate. There's starving children in China.
5. Do you think your underwear is going to pick itself up?
6. No Child of MINE would do anything like that.
7. How many times do I have to tell you DON'T throw things in the house.
8. Just you wait till your dad gets home!
9. What? Were you raised in the barn? Close that door!
10. Eat those carrots, they're good for your eyes. Did you ever see a rabbit wearing glasses?
11. Did you flush the toilet when you got through?
12. Don't you put that in your mouth! You don't know where all it's been.
13. There's enough dirt in those ears to grow potatoes.
14. You put on clean underwear, you might get hurt and have to go to the hospital.
15. AFTER you pick up your room, make your bed, brush your teeth and comb your hair, THEN maybe you can go out and play.
16. Don't talk with your mouth full...answer me!
17. I don't care what "everybody else" is doing. I care what YOU are doing.
18. If you swallow a water melon seen, a watermelon will grow in your stomach.
19. Don't sit so close to the T.V., you'll go blind.
20. I'm going to give you until I count three.
21. If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.
22. Answer me when I talk to you...don't you talk back to me.

23. If you fall out of that tree and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me.
24. When that lawn mower cuts your toes off, don't come running to me.
25. I hope someday you will have children just like you!

II. AN EXAMPLE OF A MEAN MOTHER

1. She had nine children, which meant that she liked children.
2. She made them EAT everything on their plates, so she had to get up early to cook and on Sundays there was always a big dinner because the preacher and his family usually came to dinner.
3. She make the children take baths - in a wash tub - and the boys had to pump the water.
4. The children had to wear clean, decent clothes with no holes, rips, tears or strings hanging off.
5. She had to sit up late at night sewing and making clothes from flour and feed sacks and then made the kids wear those home-made clothes.
6. She made the children go to school. If they were sick they had to stay in bed, no radio, no nothing.
7. She made them go to Sunday School, Church, revivals, singings and every church event.
8. She was guilty of forced child labor. the boys had to feed the livestock, etc. while the girls had to milk the cows and gather the eggs, help with the dishes, make the beds and help with the washing which the boys had to draw the water for. All the children had to work in the cotton fields and in the orchard and in the garden.
9. She made the children be in bed by 9:00 on school nights, 10:00 on Fridays and 10:30 on Saturday nights.
10. She was guilty of child abuse. Anytime they sassed or lied or disobeyed, their dad hit the boys with a belt and she hit the girls with a peach tree switch.
11. If the children went to a ball game, they were required to give a report of the game and to be sure to pay attention to what was going on.
12. The children were forced to ride in the back of their pick-up truck on Saturdays when the family went to town.
13. The children were forced to earn money to buy shoes and whatever clothes their mother couldn't make. Plus they were also forced to earn any spending money they wanted.
14. The teenage years for the children didn't necessarily mean dating. The boyfriends had to come to the house to see (date) the girls.
15. The boys were allowed to go out on dates, but had to be back exactly on time if not before.
16. All dates had to be at a church or school function where there were plenty of people around.
17. On report card day, there was no such thing as an excuse for bad grades.
18. This mother did many other mean things to her children and when they grew up, how they had been treated by their mother when children showed up.
19. They all graduated from high school and:
 - Of the four boys, all were/are deacons in their churches, one is a music director for a church and a Baptist Association, one is chairman of deacons at his church and sings in the choir as well as a church quartet, the last son died of agent orange he contacted while serving his country in the Army.
 - Of the five girls, four of their husbands are deacons, with one of them leading music in their church and the other one's husband is a Baptist pastor.
20. Didn't this mother make a mess out of her children's lives?
21. What about her poor husband?

III. NOW MOTHERS, IT IS YOUR TIME TO SHARE WITH US ALL WHAT BEING A MOTHER MEANS (HAS MEANT) TO YOU

Tell us now what:

- The most rewarding thing.
- The most enjoyable thing.
- The most difficult thing.
- The most memorable thing.
- The most dreaded thing.
- The most boring thing.
- The most serious thing.
- The most looked forward-to thing.

CONCLUSION:

1. There can be no question, Mothers are unique.
2. And what can we say? **MOTHERS ARE MOTHERS!**
3. If your mother is here, give her a great big hug. If your mother is still living but not here, tell her you love her before this day is over.
4. God bless you mothers, you are His gift to us all.