

Remnant Life Church
May 12, 2024
Two Mothers – One Purpose
Exodus 20:12

The idea for Mother's Day was born in a small Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia.

- It was 1876 and the nation was still mourning the Civil War dead with the hostilities having ended less than 10 years prior.
- It was while teaching a Memorial Day lesson, that Mrs. Anna Reeves Jarvis began thinking of all the mothers who were suffering as a result of the loss of their sons and husbands, and she prayed that one day there could be a type of "Memorial Day" for mothers.
- That prayer made a deep impression on one of Mrs. Jarvis's eleven children. Young Anna had witnessed her mother's efforts over the years to help hold the war-split community and church together.
- As she grew into adulthood, the younger woman kept Mrs. Jarvis's dream in her heart and on the day of her mother's death, Anna was determined to establish Mother's Day in her honor.
- And so it was that on May 12, 1907, a local observance was held which was later embraced and brought to Philadelphia and sponsored by Wanamaker's
 - John Wanamaker was a devote Christian
 - Refusing even to advertise on Sunday, who created one of the first and largest department stores in the country.
- By 1910, just 3 years later, Mother's Day was being celebrated in 45 of the then 46 states, as well as Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Canada, and Mexico.
- Miss Jarvis was elated as she saw the dream of honoring her mother spread across the country and the world.
- On May 8, 1914, President Wilson designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day in order to, in his words *...display the American flag and for the public expression of love and reverence for the mothers of the country.*

Since it was God who created the family, the Bible has a great deal to say about mothers and fathers.

- It is so important that God made it one of the Ten Commandments
- It is the 5th one - right in the very middle of the foundational laws of man

Ex. 20:12 - *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."*

There are two mothers in the Bible who receive little attention and few accolades

- One you know very little about, for only a little is written aside from her brief story found in Ex 2 in which she is unnamed
 - **Ex. 6:20** – her name is given in a family genealogy
 - **Num. 26:59** – She is part of a census of the people following a plague of God's judgment that killed 24,000 Israelites

- In spite of her relative anonymity, she acted in a way that set the course in motion to free a nation
- She defied the law of the King but honored God
- The other woman is often vilified, but it would seem quite unfairly as her circumstances were not of her own doing
 - She became involved in a situation at the behest of someone she could not defy
 - But she would become the mother of a man who was perhaps the wisest, most powerful, and richest man who ever lived - all by God's hand.
- Their stories are very different yet God blessed them both because of their faith

1. **Jochebed** – the mother of Moses

- a. This is the story of a completely selfless if not desperate act of faith
- b. She lived in the time of the Hebrews slavery in Egypt
 - i. The Hebrew nation spent approximately 430 years in Egypt
 - ii. The first half in relative prosperity thanks to Joseph and the Pharaohs who remembered his place of authority
 - iii. (Brief recap of the story)
 - iv. The time of Joseph is approx. 1670 BC when the Hyksos dynasty (the 15th) had overtaken Northern and Middle Egypt
 1. These people were not Egyptians but Semitic tribes – meaning they were descendants of Noah's oldest son, Shem
 2. The Egyptians were descended from his middle son, Ham
 3. This meant that the rulers of Egypt, in the time of Joseph, Jacob, and his 11 brothers, were actually distant relatives of the Hebrews since they both came from the same lineage of Abraham
 4. This would help to explain the favor Pharaoh showed Joseph's family and why, as shepherds, they were given the choice land of Goshen ([Gen. 46:31-34](#); [Gen. 47:6, 11](#))
- c. The time of Moses' birth, however, is when the Hebrews are slaves to the Egyptians
 - i. [Ex. 1:8](#) says that a king came to power who did not know Joseph – an Egyptian pharaoh
 - ii. This Pharaoh felt that the Hebrew nation had grown too large and could pose a threat, so he ordered the death of every new-born male ([Ex. 1:9-10, 22](#))
 - iii. If you remember, this is the same edict given by Herod in an effort to kill the baby Jesus ([Matt. 2:16](#))
- d. Jochebed is willing to do whatever is necessary to save her son, trusting that God will care for him ([Ex. 2:3](#))
 - i. God then, incredibly, gives Moses back to her as his “nurse” ([Ex. 2:7-9](#))
 - ii. She would eventually have to give him back again ([Ex. 2:10](#))
 1. She would not see him again for over 70 years
 2. But, when that time came, she would see him in the fullness of God's plan for his life

- iii. Giving yourself to God to live fully in His will, regardless of how the circumstances might appear to you, will always impact those around you in ways you cannot imagine to His glory.
 1. Jochebed's willingness to surrender her son into God's care led to the creation of a nation, a people
 2. God's people

2. Bathsheba – the mother of Solomon

- a. The account of her life begins with an everyday event that changed her life
- b. It actually begins with King David
 - i. He was someone that he did not belong
 - ii. David has been made king, God has made him a great promise and we read of David offering a great prayer of thanksgiving ([2 Sam. 2, 7](#))
 - iii. This was a time when the nations would go to war but David sent his general instead of leading the people himself ([2 Sam. 11](#))
 - iv. One night he is walking around the roof of the palace and he sees Bathsheba bathing
 1. He sends for her, knows she is married, yet sleeps with her anyway.
 2. She conceives, he attempts to frame her husband Uriah, has him killed in battle and then takes her for himself ([2 Sam. 11](#))
- c. She obeyed her king, but should she have refused?
 - i. Nathan confronts David ([2 Sam. 12:1-12](#))
 - ii. Their child is born and dies as punishment ([2 Sam. 12:13-23](#))
 - iii. God restores her with a son – Solomon
- d. God restored through His mercy to a woman who lost the most precious thing a mother could lose but gave her back in abundance
- e. God is a God of redemption
- f. But He is also a God of judgment regarding sin
 - i. David lived the rest of his life in a pattern of spiritual/moral failure
 - ii. It then continued in the line of his children with sins of rape, betrayal, and murder
 - iii. Yet David also sought God through it all
 - iv. The pattern of sin, God's righteous judgment, repentance, and restoration would follow him his entire life
 - v. God's law of morality, right, wrong, and consequence is unavoidable ([Gal. 6:7](#) – ...*God cannot be mocked*)

These two women suffered through very difficult times of uncertainty and heartache

- Yet they both were blessed by God
- God is always in a posture to forgive, redeem, and bless – in other words, to remove our sins through His mercy and grace because of His great love
- We cannot earn or merit these things, but we must confess and believe in order to be forgiven ([Rom. 10:9](#) “...*if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*”)

What is the difference between mercy and grace ?

- You owe the bank an insurmountable amount of money - \$500,000 - and now you are going to jail because you cannot pay
 - You go to them one final, desperate time to try and work something out
 - When you arrive you are told that you will not have to go to jail – that's mercy (what we deserve is withheld)
- But then they tell you they are also going to forgive the loan in its entirety, and they are going to make you an executive vice-president of the bank with all the perks at a salary of \$200,000 a year – that's grace (given something that you do not deserve; unmerited favor)
- When God sent His Son Jesus to die for you, He gave you both mercy and grace
 - His mercy is that the death penalty of sin has been removed
 - His grace is that you receive His blessings here in life, and the promise of being in the glory of His dwelling place for all eternity

Through the centuries, God has worked powerfully in and through mothers.

- Mothers demonstrate mercy and grace every day
- And not just physical mothers, but spiritual and emotional mothers

God's love is demonstrated and manifest in the mother's of our lives every day

- Give thanks for them
- Model your life from their example
- Be grateful for who they are or were in your life