

Mark's Remarks

I would think Mother's Day for moms would be much different than Father's Day for dads. Dads wake up and receive a tie, grill, billfold, or some other item. Regardless of the gift, the focus would be on practicality and usefulness. Then their thoughts possibly shift to the golf course, fishing, riding motorcycle, or watching a sporting event. Casual, nonchalant, and rather uneventful is how I see most men approaching Father's Day.

Now obviously I am not a mother, but I would consider a Mother's Day to go something like this inside the mind and heart of a woman (if nothing else, I will generate conversation). First of all, it would be more in the heart than in the mind. Second, a mother would not particularly care for a practical, tangible gift. A blender, crock pot, hair dryer, or curling iron would not rate very high. A gift certificate to Curves would not rate AT ALL. The thought of it, and they know our thoughts, is an automatic sentencing to the dog house. Flowers, attention, affection, a backrub, or a gentle touch would outshine practicality any day. Contrary to men, I would expect a woman's thoughts to focus on relationships. Golfing, reading, or watching T.V. might be okay, but engaging in a meaningful conversation would be more satisfying. Being on the receiving end of a gift that offers an opportunity for a long nap, time to read a book, or going on a romantic date would result in replacing cold feelings of being taken for granted with the warmth of being cherished.

I would also suggest that Mother's Day might be a difficult day for many. Some women might be longing for a card crafted from construction paper, scribbled with bright colors conveying the message, "i luv u mommi." Unfortunately, infertility is real, acute, and painful. Others might be thinking of the child they lost physically or the child that has seemingly turned their back on the unconditional love of their mother. Mother's Day then serves as a reminder of the deepness of pain or of distant hopes.

Regardless, a mother is about relationships that are torn and battered, innocent and pure, or somewhere in between. Mother's Day for moms is not to be focused on gifts that come wrapped in paper. It is more about gifts that come wrapped in personalities, smiles, hugs, words of appreciation. It is about love. It is to know that they are cherished and appreciated.

Now, as I write this there is a man contemplating returning a necklace or diamond ring. Don't go there. In her eyes, that still is about the relationship. ☺

So, to all you women who are moms, who are longing to be moms, and even to those that at times wish mom wasn't part of the job description, Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for being relational, for seeing life in a different light. Thank you for changing a house into a home by the life and warmth you radiate. Thank you for clean clothes, meals, hugs, selflessness, and above all, for helping us men and children understand that the most important things in life are not things at all but people.

"She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate" (Proverbs 31:27-31).

