

**THE SOWER**  
**ARTHUR (IL) CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Ron Bartanen, Evangelist**

**MAY 12, 2019**

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**ORIGIN OF MOTHER'S DAY**

The "Mother's Day" concept has a long history of religious connections which in modern times seem to have been predominantly Christian.

In ancient Greece, the idea of paying tribute to motherhood was given expression with a regular festival tantamount to mother-worship. Formal ceremonies to Cybele or Rhea, the "Great Mother of the gods," were performed on the Ides of March throughout Asia Minor .

For Christianity, the concept seems to date back to the establishment of England's "Mothering Sunday," a custom of the people which provided that one attend the mother-church in which he was baptized on Mid-Lent Sunday. Gifts were to be offered at the altar to the church and to worshippers' mothers. The concept was divorced of any "mother-worship," but nevertheless perpetuated its religious association.

U.S. observance of Mother's Day, too, has been characterized by church ties from the start. The first general observance of the occasion was in the churches of Philadelphia after Miss Anne Jarvis campaigned for a holiday for mothers over 100 years ago. —*Christianity Today*, date reference edited

(The observance of Mother's Day has caught on worldwide, as many nations, the world over, have set aside a day to give honor to mothers. To me, it is doubtful that any others have as much influence upon us—and consequently upon the world—as have mothers. —Ron)

## LINCOLN'S LOVE FOR HIS MOTHER

When Abraham Lincoln received the telegram announcing his nomination for President of the United States, he arose, put on his hat and coat and said to his friends, "There is a little woman at home who would like to hear this." And he went off to spend the evening with her. Dark days when death had entered their home came in after-years, and it was this sympathy between them that helped them to bear what God's providence had sent. —H.F. Sayles, *Encyclopedia of*

*7700 Illustrations*

*HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!*

## LIVE OR DIE?

In times past, it was much more difficult to be a Christian than it is today—well, at least in the United States.--in times past, and even today--but in many other nations being a follower of Jesus could cost you your life. For those of us living in the United States, Christianity is comparatively easy. Because we have lived in such a permissive and pluralistic society few have really cared what we believe and practice, and we might think that's good.

Consequently, we find it easy to answer such hypothetical questions as, "Would you be willing to die for the Lord?" We can quickly respond by saying, as did Peter, "Sure, I'd die for the Lord." However, because we probably will never be asked to do such a thing, it's easy for us to say. So let me challenge you with this thought...

If you can say that you'd be willing to die for Jesus, that's wonderful. But until you're called upon to do so, would you at least be willing to live for Him? Give it some thought.

--Steve Higginbotham, *GracEmail, with editing*

## A VOICE FROM THE PAST—

“It is human to stand with the crowd, divine to stand alone. It is man-like to follow the people, to drift with the tide: God-like to follow a principle, to stem the tide...multitudes now, both in the church and in the world, applaud the courage of the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, but condemn, as stubbornness, ignorance or foolishness, like-minded faithfulness and duty today.”

Wanted today: Men and women, young and old, who will obey their convictions of truth and duty at the cost of fame, fortune, friends and life itself.”

--T. B. Larimore (1843-1929)

## THE FISH NET

When Jesus began His ministry, He began with a fish story (of sorts). Not really a fish story, but an occasion where experienced fishermen worked all night and were preparing to return, having caught nothing. Jesus sees the men returning and they were somewhat downcast as a result of an empty night. The Lord then told them to take their nets and cast them over the side for a catch; somewhat doubtful, they do. Amazed at the catch, Peter presents himself to the Lord humbly (Luke 5:8). This, as far as Luke presents it, is the beginning of Jesus' mission to the Israelite nation. When John finishes his gospel, we are again at the lake and, again, Jesus tells the fishermen to cast their nets over the side for a catch. They do, and the catch is great (John 21:1-8). At the beginning of the Lord's mission He taught His disciples how to catch men: the net used was going to be two parts. First, it would be the message of the Lord taught; and, second, it would be the message of the Lord lived. Some, unfortunately, are better able to teach than live. In such cases, the net has “sprung a leak.” Let us be sure to patch nets in order that we can teach and live the gospel.

--Ron Thomas, Chillicothe, Ohio

**SICK REPORT:** I came through the ear-surgery fine, though I lost more of the top part of my ear than we had anticipated. I've not been in much pain, and I seem to be doing well. \*\*\* Doris, however, is not as well. She fell in the living room Friday morning after getting up.. She had a sudden dizzy spell, and down she went. No bruises or broken bones, but a lot of pain. With my help she's able to still get around, using her walker. I had to call the paramedics to get her to her feet. They checked her blood sugar and blood pressure, and found them normal. She's doing some better today than yesterday.