



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



## Virtuous Woman: Seeking Qualified Candidates

**P**roverbs 31 describes the virtuous woman as someone who is confident, strong and unchallenged with questions about her identity. She is that gal we would say “has it all together.” But does a modern version of this woman exist? This investigative article searches for clues!

Our search begins with the top job boards. After reviewing Monster.com, CareerBuilder, Indeed and Google, no listings for a virtuous woman can be found. Few of the women managers, directors and Fortune 500 CEOs profiled on LinkedIn use such a title. Few, if any, women in politics claim this title. The corporate world is a dead end.

Next, we examine our school systems. Few high schoolers are aware of what a virtuous woman is. Some colleges and universities offer classes in virtue, but few teach on what it means to be a virtuous woman. Even for schools which teach this, there are not many students who model these traits. Higher education offers some direction, but is ultimately another dead end.

As our investigation concludes, we return to the virtuous woman’s job description in Proverbs 31:

- She is thrifty, buying things for her family at a value.
- Her clothes are not from Macy’s or Neiman Marcus, yet she is dressed with the strength

of encouragement and determination that has helped her family do well.

- Her husband trusts her, for with her he has lacked nothing.
- She looks well to the ways of her household.
- Though at times it is very difficult, she keeps herself busy and has no time for idleness.
- Her family looks at the work of her hands and exclaims, “Excellent!”

Do these traits sound familiar to you? You might know the woman who models them as your mother or your wife. Her job description could easily compete with other six-figure-salary careers with fancier titles. But a woman is not virtuous on account of her professional title. True virtue is a byproduct of who she is.

As a mother today, you may find yourself challenged just to find a sale on your baby’s diapers or your next family meal. You may not see or feel prestige in the responsibilities of your job. However, like this virtuous woman, you are successful when you become a woman who fears the Lord. (This is not a scared fear, but one of reverence for God which overflows into your relationship with your family.) This is what makes you more precious than jewels. Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain; but as a woman who fears the LORD, you are to be praised!

*- Dr. L.W. Edwards*



# The Characters of Mother's Day

The story of Mother's Day is one of the great paradoxes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It is both a celebration of love, admiration, ambition, persistence and ultimate victory; and a sad tale of the harmful effects of bitterness, desperation and loss.



Ann Reeves Jarvis - WV & Regional History Coll.

Ann Reeves Jarvis was a Sunday School teacher and women's advocate. She worked to improve health and sanitary conditions in West Virginia and tended to mothers with tuberculosis. After the Civil War, she created a Mothers' Friendship Day to build relational bridges between women in the North and South.



Anna Jarvis - Int'l Mother's Day Shrine

While Ann's work inspired many, it had a particularly deep effect upon her daughter Anna. One day after teaching a Sunday School lesson about significant mothers in the Bible, Ann prayed, "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day commemorating her for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life. She is entitled to it." Anna never forgot these words.

When Ann died in 1905, Anna determined she would make her dream a reality. For the next 10 years, she worked tirelessly to petition for a national Mother's Day celebration. The hard work paid off in 1914, when President Woodrow Wilson officially recognized the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day, and it became a national holiday.

As the face of the holiday, Anna became a national hero. She incorporated herself as the Mother's Day International Association, copyrighted her own photograph and trademarked the Mother's Day Seal with a drawing of a carnation.

tion and the words "Mother's Day," "Second Sunday in May," and "Anna Jarvis Founder."

Yet once her mission had been accomplished, Anna became defensive and spent the next 40 years protecting "her" holiday. She saw anyone who profited from Mother's Day as a threat and viciously attacked them. In her opinion, her biggest opponents were florists, candy makers and card makers. In protest of their commercialization, she crashed their meetings, organized boycotts, created domestic disturbances, threw food in a restaurant and even sued them (or threatened to). At one time, she had [33 Mother's Day-related lawsuits](#) awaiting court hearings.



Anna in 1928 (AP Photo/File)

Near the end of her life, Anna wished she had never founded Mother's Day in the first place. Her bitterness had all but consumed her and she died in poverty and poor health.

There is a striking contrast between the characters of Mother's Day: Ann loved the work she did and never wavered from her commitment to the people for whom she did it. Anna loved her work because she loved her mother. But sadly, once she had reached her goal in establishing Mother's Day, she fell in love with her work and forgot about her mother.

What's the moral of this story? Keep focused on what is most important — and that should always include people.

This Mother's Day, it's okay to honor Mom with flowers, chocolate or a card. Just be sure to remember what is most important and make the day all about her!

- Cam Edwards

