

Today's Devotional is provided by Jacqueline Laughlin

Sunday Best...Dress for Success! PART 2

It may seem a bit counterintuitive at once to think that there was a time when a good part of preparing for Sunday was what to wear to church. Appearance and showing up matters! How you feel about how you look and how you present yourself to the world matters! What hat will you wear; what gloves; what outfit?

The old days involved hitting the barber shop, scheduling a standard Saturday hair appointment, shining your shoes to get ready for Sunday. Did your suit or dress have to be tailor-made or altered to fit you? Dressing for success was not something to postpone to the last minute.



As a child did you get to wear something brand new for Easter? Stockings, special socks, shoes, dress, jewelry, did your actual prep for church involve saving, shopping or sewing, or consulting a catalog? Maybe that's even why you stopped going to church. It was just too much pressure. Do those old behaviors still mean anything to you?

Were your parents or friends actually the ones who selected the style or type of clothing required for church as the formal signal to welcome Spring with new clothes, smelling and looking good. What victory might you actually be celebrating today by looking and feeling fabulous on the Sabbath? My grandfather was an immigrant pullman porter and Veteran postal worker who wore a top hat and formal overcoat to greet me on my first Easter Sunday. His son would become the Postmaster working on a floor in a building my grandfather was not allowed to enter.

In our contemporary "come as you are" era dressing up for God or who might see us in church is less important than the event itself. If you rolled in late in dirty jeans, barely awake and tossed a coin in the basket even on Easter Sunday, we would all still be very glad to see you. We know all prayers are answered, no matter how we are dressed.

Still, when we gather for Easter we might want to remember the former practice of being made all brand new in our special clothes. Of course, if you dress up this Easter it might not be for public viewing!

Whatever we choose to wear, we remember that Christ Jesus died for our sins with God's blessing, that all is forgiven, God of second chances and new mercies still reigns. Wherever we come from or our former selves do not define the person we are truly called to be. There is a ritual associated with the special care we might take to what to wear on Easter Sunday. So, look deeply into that and ask God to clothe us with all righteousness and love, no matter how stylish or not we are dressed.