



# Splendid Oaks

P A R A G O N W O M E N ' S M I N I S T R Y  
N E W S L E T T E R

## DISHES

- Josephine Cochrane unveiled the first reliable dishwasher in 1866 after two others had developed machines that proved to be ineffectual or unreliable. She later founded what would become Kitchen Aid.
- The dishwasher did not become a widespread appliance until the 1950's
- In Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park*, Ian Malcolm claims that the dishwasher and other appliances are not progress because women spend the same amount of time doing housework as they did without these appliances.

There is a pile of dirty dishes in my kitchen. It is an ever changing pile of dishes that doesn't disappear as often as I would like. I sometimes hate that pile of dishes. But it is an excellent reminder for many things.

It reminds me that I am not perfect. I can't do it all and there is no shame in that. There are occasions when I am actually proud of myself for leaving that pile of dishes undone. In the moments when I am exhausted or sick or on day two of a migraine and I realize that the world won't end if I go to bed and take care of myself without doing those dishes, I am proud of myself for not making a mountain out of a mole hill. They will, after all, be there tomorrow and I

know I will eventually conquer them.

But then sometimes I am disappointed in myself. Those dirty dishes make me feel like a bad wife; like I'm not taking good enough care of my husband and household. The woman of Proverbs 31 wouldn't let those dishes pile up. And I think of all the things that woman does so well. She is meant to be an example, right? She's not meant to be a standard I can't reach. And I keep thinking about her and remember that she had servants, which reminds me that I shouldn't be comparing myself to anyone.

Matt's recent sermon about Mary and Martha really resonated with me because it was a reminder that it's ok to leave the

dirty dishes there and deal with the more important things like spending time with family, getting dinner on the table, or recovering from who-knows-what. Wives and mothers spend so much time taking care of other people, sometimes we need a reminder that taking care of ourselves is not selfish, but necessary.

~Jenny Gutierrez

### Contact Corner

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## *For Your Table*

### 5 Cans 2 Packages

1 pound ground beef--browned and drained

1 can yellow corn

1 can white corn

1 can Ranch-style beans

1 can Ro-tel®

1 can petite diced tomatoes

1 package taco seasoning

1 package ranch dressing

Mix together and heat. Serve with Fritos®, cheese, and sour cream.

This easy, inexpensive and versatile recipe is a staple in all my family's homes. If you like spice, use hot Ro-tel®, Ranch beans with jalapenos and hot sausage. Sausage gives it a different flavor. If you like it more soupy, leave the juice in the corn, or drain the corn to make it more like chili. It can be frozen and thawed to use later for a quick dinner. My friends have used the recipe and added their own personal touch and have won contests with it!

*From Kathy*

## **God the Great Physician** How has God healed your heart?

Come and hear fellow women talk about God's healing in their lives through adversity.

Maybe you'll even share something God has done for you!

This night will be a time of hope encouragement and worship. Come and know that you are not alone in your trials.

## **Upcoming Events**

- ◆ Thursday, February 8th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm at Paragon, dinner provided  
~ God the Great Physician
- ◆ March 9th & 10th, Friday night and Saturday Morning, at North Church  
~ IF Gathering. More information is available on the For His Splendor table.
- ◆ April ~ Women's Self Defense.  
Details to come.