

## White Lie

*12-30-2013 by Harry Zirkelbach*

As far back as she could remember her life was no different than most of the children she met regularly or casually. The family was the center of everything.

In being taught the routine that makes life pleasant, wonderful, she learned too many things to recall each moment of her education.

In every circumstance she understood she was expected to tell the truth. There were tests. She passed. She found that her parents, siblings were always truthful in routines that comprised her life.

All was ordinary until the day the door bell rang at home. Her mother responding to these appeals. This time, her mother said something she did not understand. "Mary, answer the door and tell Mr Smith I am not home."

Mary was unable to move. Her understanding, never tell a lie. Suddenly she was clearly being told to ignore that principle. Quickly mother came to understand. She amended her instruction, and whispered, "Let's both be quiet. Neither of us will answer Mr Smith's presence at our door."

In the days following, Mother spent time carefully explaining to Mary that Mother's instruction "to lie" in selected circumstances were not lies, but Mental Reservations. "Mother was not home, to Mr Smith." Used in instances when Mother did not wish to accept that invitation.

There were questions.

Eventually Mary said she understood the concept mental reservation. And with a series of practical explanations, Mary caught the spirit of her mother's teaching. The few times Mother used the mental reservation, Mary would laugh openly, enjoy the moment.

As the years passed Mary observed that in daily experiences, she seldom detected anyone telling an outright lie in conversation with her and others. She could recognize the Mental Reservation, never employed it, with family, friend, stranger. She continued to laugh when detecting a Mental Reservation in her presence. This laughter was appealing to family and friend. It was part of her appealing personality.

Following graduation from High School, Mary now an attractive young woman became employed, doubling her acquaintances. One, a man a few years older became a presence in Mary's life. He was attentive, liked by Mary, her friends, parents and siblings.

While the two were at a dinner together a few months after meeting, Joe changed the topic suddenly and Mary heard "Mary you are the most beautiful woman in the world, and I would like you to become my wife."

The introduction to the proposal was heard by Mary as another Mental Reservation. This caused Mary laugh, giggle openly, delightfully She had not considered the possibility of marriage.

Joe misunderstood.

He changed the conversation to what they had planned that evening, neither revisiting the invitation included in the sentence.

She enjoyed the night. She told her parent that Joe had asked her to marry him, that she was inclined to agree. Mother and Father was pleased for her and Joe.

Joe never called Mary again.

In fact, he disappeared from her life.

