



LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

#3. *THE BLESSING STARTS TO UNFOLD*

"The LORD repay your work and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Ruth 2:12

So, Naomi & Ruth are in Bethlehem ... home. We now start to see the fruit of their choices coming into play. You see, as soon as Naomi made the choice to return home, to God's land of promise; everything started to change for her. Not initially or not even visually, but they did start to change for God started orchestrating things on her behalf to show her His favour & pleasure.

Remember, God's interest is in us, His children. He wants to see us grow and prosper, living fulfilled lives. When we are positioned properly before Him, He has the ability to bring favour & blessing our way.

1. FAVOUR

PARTNERING WITH GOD...

- a) As soon as Naomi arose to go home, it started.
 - ↻ She partnered with God & God honoured her trust:
 - Both Orpah & Ruth showed her their intense love, devotion & admiration
 - Ruth gave the ultimate blessing of covenant friendship
- b) Ruth partnered with Naomi who had already partnered with God
 - ↻ The favour increased.
 - She now walked under Naomi's covering
 - She found favour with Boaz
 - God gave them food to eat
 - She found her future husband and father of her children

TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE...

Look up the following verses and write what they say:

Proverbs 27:17 _____

Ecclesiastes 4:12 _____

What examples in Ruth 2 do we see of this?

What other examples in scripture show us this partnership principle?

What examples in scripture show us the opposite?

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?

Is there a situation in your own life that this truth is speaking to?

2. APPROPRIATE

| *appropriate: Verb (used with object) - to take to or for oneself; take possession of.*

'WHAT' OR 'WHO' HAS GOD PUT IN FRONT OF YOU?

'WHAT' DOES HE WANT YOU TO DO?

Listen to some key phrase as spoken by Naomi or Ruth:

She arose... she went out from the place she was... (Ruth 1:6, 7)

So Ruth the Moabitess said... (Ruth 2:2)

Then she left... (Ruth 2:3)

At first glance they may seem like nothing, but if we take a closer look they are pivotal moments in both of these women's lives. If Naomi never got up and went, she'd have never left and she may never have realized the love and commitment that both of her daughters in law had for her. If Ruth never acted on the idea in her mind, they probably would have continued without food and she would never have met Boaz.

HERE'S AN EXCERPT FROM A STUDY THAT I DID ON PROVERBS 31. WE WERE FOCUSING ON THIS
INDUSTRIOUS WOMAN...

Give ye to her of the fruit of her hands, And her works do praise her in the gates! (Proverbs 31:31 YLT)

It wasn't too long ago that I had this principal practically shouted at me – through the Holy Spirit, of course!

- On Saturday I heard a message on Luke 9:10-17 (take notice of verse 13 - But He said to them, "You give them something to eat.")
- On Sunday from 2 Kings 4:1-7 (vs. 2 – "Tell me, what do you have in the house?"), and then
- On Tuesday it was a passage from 2 Peter 1:2-8 (vs. 3 - His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness).

Let me give a little advice here ... if this happens to you, don't think that it is a coincidence! Now, that may seem a little obvious, but I only share this for some of you who tend to be a little slow, like me! Ask God to show you what He is trying to say, just like Samuel did (1 Samuel 3:8-10).

Anyway, the point is: we are created to do good things, to team with God and join Him in the work that He is doing – to literally be His hand extended to the situations that we encounter (Ephesians 2:10). The great thing that we are to discover through our pro31 woman is that this is not always so 'super spiritual'. In fact, I would guess that it is mostly very practical. Yes, we need to pray but God is looking for people who put their faith to action. He is not into couch potato faith! (www.wandamann.ca)

"WE ARE IN DANGER OF FORGETTING THAT WE CANNOT DO WHAT GOD DOES, AND THAT GOD WILL NOT DO
WHAT WE CAN DO." (OSWALD CHAMBERS)

REMEMBER MARY & MARTHA?

Let's read: Luke 10:38-42

What is it that Jesus told Martha not to do? _____

Jesus didn't tell Martha not to work. In fact, if that is what we take from this dialogue I think we've missed the point. Martha was missing the 'moment' in front of her. Mary was not.

Can you relate to this scene? How easy it is as women to forget why we are here in the first place... So, why are we here? _____

WHAT ARE SOME ABSOLUTES --- THINGS THAT GOD REQUIRES OF US? I've listed a few to get us started. Add your own below these:

1 Kings 2:3 _____

Micah 6:8 _____

John 6:27-29 _____

WHAT DO WE NEED TO LEAVE UP TO GOD?

REMEMBER:

WHATEVER WE ARE HOLDING IN OUR HANDS IS BEING SUPPORTED BY GOD'S HANDS AS HE HOLDS
ONTO US.

REMEMBER WHAT JESUS SAID:

"For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, [the door] will be opened." (Matt. 7:8)

If we don't:

ask – we don't get (Matthew 7:8)

look – we don't see ([John 12:45](#))

believe – we don't receive ([Matthew 21:22](#))

listen – we don't hear ([John 10:27](#))

work – we don't eat ([2 Thessalonians 3:10](#))

Ephesians 2:7-10 MSG

Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.