

RUTH'S VIRTUES & COMMENDABLE CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Ruth took it upon herself to **work hard** in the fields at harvest time to help support her mother-in-law. There was nothing LAZY or SELFISH about her. Naomi didn't have to coax her.
- ▶ Ruth was an industrious woman and not afraid of work. She was not an idler and pleasure lover as so many are inclined to be. She took advantage of the Law of Gleaning.
- ▶ Ruth had unselfish love for Naomi and for the Lord. She endeared Naomi to the whole community.
- ▶ Ruth had maidenly modesty which made her a rare jewel, as it was her most attractive quality in the eyes of any noble and upright man.
- ▶ Because Ruth did not flirt with the men on the job but clung to the maidens at rest breaks, they spoke well of her.
- ▶ Therefore, in Divine Providence, Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz, a relative of her father-in-law.
- ▶ Above all, the piety of Ruth was second to none. It was more than her love for Naomi that made her true. It was a love for Naomi's GOD which distinguished Ruth. Very uniquely, Boaz alluded to this when he spoke of "THE WINGS OF THE ALMIGHTY under which she has come to trust".



Ruth 2:12: The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under Whose wings thou art come to trust.

Ruth 2:11: And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy

mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

Revelation 2:2a: Jesus said:

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil:

Revelation 2:9: I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of satan.

Revelation 2:13: I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast My Name, and hast not denied My Faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where satan dwelleth.

Matthew 25:40: [Jesus' Words] Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.

▶ Ruth fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, saying:



Ruth 2:10b: Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

This kind of humility will always find grace.

James 4:6: But He giveth more Grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth Grace unto the humble.

In our daily duties, it is not what we do alone (like washing dishes, making beds, sweeping floors, dusting, doing laundry) but the spirit in which we do those duties that means everything — whether our life is one of contribution or contrition.

Colossians 3:17: And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.

Colossians 3:23: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Ruth 2:14: And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

Luke 12:37: Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when He cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that He shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Revelation 2:17: To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

John 21:12: Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask Him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

- ▶ Ruth is further compensated by this instruction from Boaz to the servants:

Ruth 2:16: And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them [handfuls of barley], and rebuke her not.



- ▶ This only happens in THE MASTER'S FIELDS, and they will cease if we glean in other fields than His.

Ruth 2:17: So she gleaned in the field until even [evening], and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.

Note: (An ephor was enough to feed 16 people for one day.) Ruth could have left the chaff and straw on the grain which would have made it look like more, but it would not increase the value of that increased bulk.

If, in our service for the Master, we are more interested in the quantity rather than quality of work in order to make a good impression, we will be rewarded less.



So, teachers and preachers, PREACH THE WORD and leave out the chaff. If you can't eat it, don't feed it to others. It's necessary that all chaff (carnality, fleshliness) be separated in us.

- ▶ Are you familiar with the meaning of GLEANING which Ruth is doing in the fields of Boaz? She is actually gathering up what the reapers have left behind, in their harvesting. Note Naomi's questioning of Ruth: "Where have you GLEANED TODAY?"

Ruth 2:19: And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned today? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did

take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought today is Boaz.

These leftovers are COMMANDED by Almighty God when the reaping of the harvest was made.

Leviticus 19:9-10:

⁹ And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.

¹⁰ And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 23:22: And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

- ▶ Ruth was but a daughter-in-law, yet she acted more the part of a real daughter to her widowed and childless mother-in-law.
- ▶ When Ruth came home to Naomi, she had such an abundance of grain, six ephahs (each ephah equals one bushel and 1 pint) which equals six bushels and six pints.



Leviticus 19:36: Just balances, just weights, a just ephah [dry measure = 1 bushel + 1 pint], and a just hin [liquid measure = 1 gallon], shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Amos 8:5-7:

⁵ Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?

⁶ That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?

⁷ The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

When Naomi heard where Ruth had gleaned, she was delighted. She informed Ruth that this person, Boaz, was THE NEAR KINSMAN-REDEEMER in whose fields she had worked.



Once again, we have an example of Ruth's FAITH as expressed in her believing Naomi who explained to her the rights — under Levitical Law — to the land of her former husband.

► Faith and Obedience to Naomi's instructions.

ILLUSTRATION

Mary Swail Taft, who was writing of life in India, had this to say about a Christian lady Doctor whom she called the greatest example of a real Christian.

She far outshined Mt. Everest, the Taj Mahal. She lived in one of India's sacred cities, in Brindaban, on the Jumma River, a place thronging with sacred cows garlanded with flowers, and sacred monkeys, vile priests, and temple women who numbered 8,000 who were a haunting nightmare of the city.

The author called the city a 'cesspool of iniquity' . . . yet here resided this gallant soldier of the cross. When urged by the author to leave, she replied:

"But these people are my people. These people shall be my people till MY GOD IS THEIR GOD."

So the people of India gave her this title SADHU – which means holy one. When she was laying sick unto death, they hovered about the door saying, "I will not speak, only let me see her."

CONCLUSION — ISRAEL'S FAMOUS CONVERT

The Jerusalem Post, October 1976, carried the words: THE MOST FAMOUS CONVERT IN OUR HISTORY. The article made reference to Ruth the Moabitess and her most beautiful entreaty. Let me repeat it to you once again for it is most worthy of mentioning again.

Ruth 1:16-17:

15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

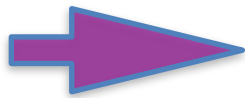
16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the



LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

There are several hundreds of people who seek conversion each year to the Jewish Faith. This endeavor is far more than seeking citizenship in our United States or even in Canada. The traditional Halakhah or requirement is the Talmud (any Laws not written in Holy Scripture, but are the rabbis' interpretations of Scripture) are very strict. Anyone seeking conversion to the Jewish faith will be probed as to what are the reasons for wishing to become a Jew. When the rabbis are satisfied that the person has no selfish or ulterior motives, they will still try to discourage them by telling of all the persecutions they will face. For, as the Talmud says: "One should push him away with one hand and pull him to you with the other".



Have you ever thought of this: Everything in our Christian Faith has a JEWISH LABEL stamped upon it? Our Saviour and Messiah is Jewish. The Holy Bible is Jewish. Our Church, in its origin and original membership, is JEWISH.

In order to be accepted into the Jewish community, after a would-be convert has completed their initial cross-examining tests by the rabbis successfully, then they must convince a panel of three rabbis that they are worthy of being accepted into the community. Only then are they ready to undergo the central RITUALS OF CONVERSION; namely, CIRCUMCISION and IMMERSION in the MIKVEH. While in the ritual bath, the convert must reaffirm before dayanim (judges in a Jewish religious court) his desire to be a Jew and his belief. There can be no selfish motives, such as converting in order to marry a girlfriend or boyfriend.

Ruth surely passed all these tests, and even more so. Her heart reached beyond her eyes, her flesh, or her pocket-book. She touched the heartstring when she said: "**THY GOD SHALL BE MY GOD**".

The apostle Paul, the Jewish evangelist to the Gentiles, gave this message to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 2:12-13:

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the Covenants of Promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the Blood of Christ.

Romans 9:4-5:

⁴ Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the Covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the Promises;

⁵ Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, Who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 3:1-2:

¹ What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

² Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

This same loyalty to the JEWISH FAITH, how is it defined by Jewish Rabbis?
“Concerning CONVERSION to THE JEWISH FAITH, this means that THE JEWISH GOD is A GOD OF HISTORY and He works through the reality of the people of the community. The convert approaches the GOD OF ISRAEL not as an individual soul, but through the PEOPLE OF ISRAEL and the collective experience of Israel.”

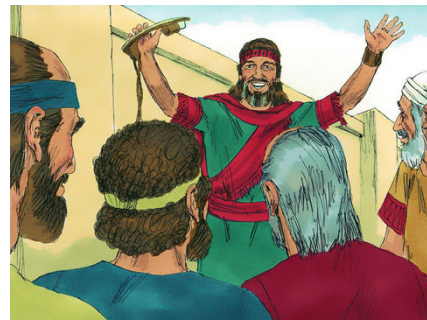
RUTH and THE KINSMAN REDEEMER – BOAZ

Ruth 4:9-11:

⁹ And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

¹⁰ Moreover Ruth the Moabites, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

¹¹ And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the House of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:



BOAZ is a type of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST who PURCHASED US at Calvary. RUTH is a type of the Gentiles who are come into the Jewish Heritage when she married Boaz. Through this mystical union, she became the mother of Obed who was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David through whom Christ Jesus came in the flesh.

1 Peter 1:18-19:

¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible

things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
19 But with the Precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Acts 20:28: Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His Own Blood.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20:

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23: Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Ephesians 5:25-27:

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;

26 That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word,

27 That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be Holy and without blemish.



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