

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: “Blessed Is The Woman”

BIBLE STORY: Ruth
TEXT: Ruth 1:1-11,14-19,22; 2:1-23; 4:13-17

BIBLE STORY:

INITIAL SITUATION (Background):

In the Old Testament, the descendants of Abraham lived in Israel. These people were known as the Israelites, God’s chosen people. No kings were ruling them; judges were ruling the Israelites. Although they were known as the people of God, everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes. Each generation was worse than the previous generation.

BIBLE STORY:

A great famine was in Israel and everyone was hungry. An Israelite man named Elimelech took his wife Naomi and his two sons, and left Israel. They moved to a foreign country called Moab where there was food. Their sons married women from Moab. After about ten years, Naomi was sorrowful, because her husband and two sons had died. When she heard that the famine was over in Israel, she decided to go back home to Bethlehem.

Naomi kissed her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, good-bye. She told them that they should not go on this long trip and leave their homeland and family. Each should return to her mother’s home. They cried. Finally Orpah kissed her mother-in-law Naomi good-by and went back to her home.

Ruth stayed. Naomi once again told Ruth to return home. But, Ruth told her mother-in-law Naomi not to tell her to leave her. Ruth said, ***“Wherever you go I will go with you. Wherever you stay, I will stay with you. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God.”***

So Ruth went with her mother-in-law Naomi to Israel. They finally arrived in Bethlehem. Ruth took care of her mother-in-law Naomi. In order for them to have food to eat, Ruth went out each day to a field owned by Boaz, a relative of Naomi. She walked after the harvest workers, picking up the grain from stalks of barley that was left on the ground. Boaz saw Ruth and was very pleased when he learned how she was taking care of her mother-in-law Naomi. He protected her, not allowing his men to harass, mistreat or abuse her. Also, he made sure his men were kind to her, leaving some barley stalks for her, and allowing her to drink their water.

After a period of time, Boaz married Ruth. God blessed their home. They had a son, Obed, who would become the grandfather to David, the second king of Israel.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Proverbs 31:30-31^{NIV}, *“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”*

Ruth fulfilled this passage. Ruth trusted and put her faith in God. As a young widow, Ruth looked beyond her own personal needs, leaving her own country to care for her mother-in-law. Ruth was a blessed woman. Are you a blessed woman?

ATTENTION: Pause and say, *“Each time I say, ‘Blessed is the woman,’ say it with me.”*

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose ears quietly listen to people’s hurts, pains, sorrows, joys and victories.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose hands reach out in kindness and wipe away the tears of the brokenhearted.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose words encourage and comfort the distraught.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose arms embrace the lonely.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose heart loves the loving and unloving.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose nature is to forgive and begin anew.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose beauty reflects the light and love of God.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose breath inhales and exhales a gentle spirit.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose mind thinks on wholesome thoughts.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose nose smells the fragrance of God’s creation.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose feet walk through the storms of life and showers of blessings.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose time is not measured in minutes, hours or days but in quality of life.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose senses feel God's presence and peace each day.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose hope is in God's grace to face tomorrow.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose knees kneel in prayer to talk with God.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose eyes read the Bible to receive a word from God.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose life is given to almighty God, accepting Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

Blessed is the woman:

- ◆ Whose vision sees God saying, "Welcome home, blessed woman, well done!"

May God bless you.

PRAYER (optional)

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