

Chapter 9, The Faith of a Foreign Woman

Journal your answers to these questions as you read through the chapter this week. You may wish to read one day and journal the next, or spread the questions over the whole week.

Day 1

1. How would you describe the relationship between Naomi and her daughter-in-laws? Is there anything you can apply to your relationship with your in-laws or future in-laws?
2. Ruth and Boaz provided for Naomi. In what tangible ways can you provide for the less fortunate both in your family and your community?

Day 2

1. Boaz praised Ruth saying, “May the LORD repay you for what you have done [for Naomi]. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge” (p. 123). How did God answer Boaz’ prayer for Ruth? How does an “others-centered” life create blessings for the giver?
2. As you reflect on times of need in your life, when have you experienced divine providence and unexpected provision?
3. Character is revealed by what we do, what we say, and often by what others say about us. How does Boaz serve as an example of a godly man or Ruth as a godly woman?

Day 3

1. The theme of redemption is found throughout this story. Compare Boaz’ redemption of Ruth & Naomi to how Christ has redeemed you. Have you accepted His redemption?
2. Faithful Boaz & Ruth were great-grandparents to King David, therefore they were also ancestors of Jesus. Who in your family tree has been a godly example to you? Who in your church family stands as an example of godliness?

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An Election Prayer

The following is inspired by a columnist's meditation, published in a New York newspaper before the 1804 election. The anonymous writer implored his compatriots to pray earnestly when exercising their right to vote.

He urged citizens to pray the following before voting:

Almighty God and heavenly Father. I am called, in Thy providence, to transact this day a business with which Thy glory, and the welfare of mankind, are intimately connected. Be pleased most graciously, to counsel and direct me. Remove far from me all passion, prejudice, and selfish views. May he (or she) for whom I vote be approved of Thee, and be made instrumental in advancing the kingdom of Him Who has loved and given Himself for us all. Enable me by Thy Holy Spirit so to act as to have the testimony of a good conscience, and find acceptance with Thee through the merits of my blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

The writer then recommended voters offer this after casting their ballots:

Most merciful God, accept my sincere endeavor to serve Thee. Keep my country under Thy holy protection. May those whom Thou settest over it, humbly seek Thy face, fear Thee and hate covetousness (Exodus 18:21). Enable this leader to do Thy work and will. Enable me to serve and seek Thee on their behalf as Thou grants me days. May my words in regard to them be as unto Thee I pray. Pour Thy Holy Spirit upon all humanity. And hasten the soon return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—Amen.

In a closing benediction, an editor added:

“Happy is that people, whose God is the Lord (Psalm 144:15).”

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