
The Messenger



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385

Website: westlakechurchofchrist.org

Sunday: AM Bible Study – 9:30 a.m., AM Worship – 10:30 a.m., PM Worship – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday: PM Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

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Dempsey Collins

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.

Learn from Ruth

by Mary Ann Palmer

The story of Ruth in the Old Testament is a short one, but we can learn many things from it to better ourselves as Christian women. The book of Ruth reveals that she was not only a woman of excellence, but a determined and devoted woman as well. These attributes gave her a good reputation and were instrumental in her marriage to Boaz.

After Naomi's sons had died and Naomi decided to return to Judah, she encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to their mothers' houses. Orpah did go, but Ruth insisted on staying with Naomi. We see Ruth's determination to go with her mother-in-law from her statement, "Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse if anything but death parts you and me" (Ruth 1:16-18). In this passage we also see her determination to accept Naomi's nation and God as her own.

In addition to her determination, Ruth was a devoted woman. She was not a lazy woman who expected her mother-in-law to feed her, but she willingly went out in the fields to pick up grain that had been left for the needy and strangers (Lev. 19:9; 23:22; Ruth 2:2). Ruth was also looking for a husband at this time, that she may marry and raise up grandchildren for Naomi, for she was considered childless since her sons were dead.

Not only was Ruth devoted to her mother-in-law, she had an excellent reputation. When Boaz met Ruth, he wanted her to glean in his fields, to drink and eat with his workers, and to be under his protection (Ruth 2:8-9, 14-16).

When Ruth could not understand such kindness being shown to a stranger as herself (Ruth 2:10), Boaz told her that he had heard of all she had done for her mother-in-law (Ruth 2:11). Boaz also told her he would do whatever she asked, and all his people knew she was a woman of excellence. Because of her good works, kindness, devotion, and determination, Ruth had built a good reputation for herself. Even her neighbors recognized the love Ruth had for Naomi and the kindness Ruth had shown her (Ruth 4:15).

From Ruth we can learn to be as devoted and as kind to our family members as she was to Naomi. Too often we take our family for granted. Sometimes our daily tasks and burdens make us forget to show that devotion and kindness to others. This is also something that children need to learn. Too often siblings in a family are too caught up in the attitude that “It’s not my job,” rather than saying “what can I do to help?” Ruth’s attitude is so admirable; she didn’t even ask, she just went to work.

We can be as determined to serve God all of our lives and never forsake Him just as Ruth would not forsake Naomi. When Ruth told Naomi, “Your God shall be my God,” she had already determined to give up her old way of life. She was ready to accept Naomi’s way of life and serve the living God. We should imitate Ruth’s determination by giving up our old selfish ways and making a commitment to accept how God wants us to live.

Finally, we can live such pure lives that our good reputation will be known by all. Do our neighbors know that we serve the living God by our actions? By our dress? By our speech? Can they say that we are “a woman of excellence?” We are open books that the world reads. May our pages be filled with kind deeds and words and abundant examples of goodness that will give God the glory!

News and Notes:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – July 21-25, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
- James 5:16