

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Ruth**

#### **Lesson 1: Ruth – Bad Things Happen To Good People**

##### **Reading**

Ruth 1:1-22.

##### **Bad Things Happen To Good People**

Life is tough! Whoever said, *"life is easy"* was not only wrong but a deceiver. It never ceases to amaze me how many people seem to think that life should be kind to them and basically easy. The reality is that Christians are not immune to disease, accidents, hardships and death. The sooner we all wake up to that the better life will be for us. We will stop getting angry from harbouring unrealistic expectations.

Naomi and her family lived at a time when their very existence relied entirely upon agriculture and subsistence living. No crops meant no food and no food meant death. So when the famine struck in Israel, it was time to shift, just as Jacob had found out earlier.

Yes, it is absolutely right to trust God through the hard times, but don't write off 'common sense'. God does not expect us to turn off our brains as soon as we become Christians. No, God is real and the Christian life is real as well. Yes, we should trust God in every circumstance; however, if He has not given us a specific promise to provide for us during the economic challenge we are facing, if there are things we can do to ease it – like selling up or 'trading down' – we should not be too proud to consider it. Above all, we must listen to His voice and do what He says.

Naomi experienced some of the hardest situations we could ever be asked to face. Like Job, she lost all her close relatives. She was devastated emotionally, economically and culturally. Her male relatives – her husband and her sons – represented her security, income and future, and they had all died. What was she to do? She could sit around feeling sorry for herself for the rest of her life or choose to 'move on'. Yes, it was going to be hard, and yes, it would involve risk and change. However, staying as she was would not be a good choice either. She took a long hard look at herself, her situation, her daughters-in-law and her circumstances, and decided the time was right to start afresh.

There is a time when grieving and mourning cease. Yes, of course, it is right to mourn and grieve – however, they are not supposed to take over. They are supposed to help heal the hurt and release the pain so life can start over again. As we 'give' all our hurt and pain to Jesus, He begins the healing process. He can and will turn our mourning into dancing – if we let Him.

When Naomi heard that Israel had grain once more, she decided to return to her roots, her home

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### **Lesson 1 cont.: Ruth – Bad Things Happen To Good People**

and her God. Foreign gods will never satisfy – there is a time when we need to realise that and return to our Maker. He alone is our security, help and Friend. He waits for us to come to our senses and ‘come home’. He is constantly waiting for us to return. Naomi decided to take the risk. It took courage and humility.

Yes, it was natural for Naomi’s daughters-in-law to stay with her through the tragedy. After all they had been married for some time to their husbands – her sons. Now that Naomi was contemplating returning to her roots, there was a sense of expectancy and hope. However, Naomi recommended to them to go back to their maternal homes. It is very evident, however, that Naomi had an extremely loving and close relationship with both Ruth and Orpah, which made the separation so much harder to contemplate.

The test of a good relationship is invariably through tough times rather than times of ease. Anyone can be a friend to those living an easy life. True friends stick by you in your worse times after you have let them down, and in those times when everything seems to be going wrong. They support you in whatever decision you make, even if they think it is unwise or not in their best interests.

Ruth was a wonderful girl; she surrendered her life totally for the benefit of Naomi.

#### **Ruth would say to us today...**

Life is hard. Bad things do happen to good people. You will always face challenges. Your character is built on how you respond to those challenges. When you befriend someone going through hard times it’s amazing how you get blessed in return.

#### **Prayer**

*Father, as I look at Ruth’s devotion to Naomi I feel deeply challenged. Please help me realise the joy that comes through looking beyond myself to help others in need. For Your Name’s sake. Amen.*

#### **Additional readings**

Job 1:6-22; Ecclesiastes 3:1-14; Psalm 37:3-11.

#### **Questions**

How do you respond when things don’t go the way you hoped, planned or expected?

How do you handle a crisis?

What can we learn from Ruth about responding positively to the needs of others?

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 2: Ruth – People Are Watching You**

#### **Reading**

Ruth 1:1-7.

#### **People Are Watching You**

The first thing we all need to understand is that God is watching us. No matter where we are or what we do, God is watching. The lives of both Naomi and Ruth were about to change. Both were widows without a cent to their names, and on top of that, Ruth was a foreigner, an outcast, a Moabitess. The Moabites were enemies to the Israelites because they had seduced the Israelites into worshipping other gods. Ruth was a descendent of Moab. However, as we read in chapter 1, she turned her back on her family's gods and embraced the God of Naomi – Israel's God – Jehovah.

God honours those who turn to Him with a contrite heart. He knew there was a man in the same tribe as Naomi's late husband – Ephrathites' clan of the Tribe of Judah – who could help them in their predicament. Yes, God does perform miracles but He also uses us as His hands and His feet. Or He may use us to fulfil His plans and destiny for others. Here He used Boaz. God knew Boaz and could read his heart. God saw in him someone who would obey Him and someone He could use in His plans for mankind.

So often we live dissatisfied lives – always looking forward with longing for the big event, the significant promotion or the worthwhile job, forgetting the fact that the Lord is looking for people who are faithful in the little things. As Paul points out, we need to remember that no matter what we do for a job or ministry, we do it for the Lord, and as such should strive to perform it with excellence as unto the King. Not only that but we should also be very grateful for all He entrusts to us.

Ruth was obviously a very diligent and humble girl. She was not afraid of hard work but did not presume on others. She recognised her place was behind the reapers. She had no right to work alongside the reapers, as she was an outcast. However, Jewish law demanded that, even though a foreigner, she was entitled to glean the seed that the reapers missed. So she asked the foreman if she could do so and he consented. It was as she conscientiously went about her work that the 'boss' arrived. Why? Because God wanted Boaz to see her!

Can I encourage you? No job seems perfect and there will be many times you may want a change – but if God has provided the job for you, work at it to the best of your ability and then let God do the rest. Don't keep looking 'over the fence' or striving for the 'top job'; let God do with your life what He wants – then you will be successful and feel fulfilled.

Whether we like it or not and whether we are aware of it or not, people *are watching us*. Ruth was just going about her daily work. However, she had obviously impressed the foreman. Of course,

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 2 continued: Ruth – People Are Watching You**

she was the new girl on the block and Boaz would have known his 'workers', but the foreman was still impressed. She had diligently got on with her work without talking and distracting the other girls. She had kept working and only taken a short break in the heat of the day. The foreman couldn't help mentioning that to Boaz.

How did Boaz respond? He was so impressed that he went and told her to stay reaping in his fields. He would ensure her safety and refreshment. When she asked what had caused him to treat her in such a way, he responded by saying, *"I've heard all about you! I'm impressed by your loyalty to your mother-in-law and the fact that you have left your homeland to come and look after her."* He ended by praying a wonderful blessing upon her from none other than the God whom she had chosen to follow and own as hers. God always honours those who honour Him and He blesses those who work and serve Him diligently. Both on earth and in Heaven.

#### **Ruth would say to us today...**

You would be amazed at what people notice about you. Whether it's your cheerful disposition, your quiet efficiency, your solid integrity or your encouraging comments. They all declare your character. God is also watching and He will never keep a good person down for long. Be faithful in the little things of life and the larger responsibilities will inevitably come to you.

#### **Prayer**

*Father, please help me remember that it is not so much what I do for You but who I am that matters. Please help me to be faithful in the small things so it brings glory to Your Name. Amen.*

#### **Additional readings**

2 Samuel 9:1-13; Colossians 3:15-25; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; 2 Chronicles 16:9.

#### **Questions**

How do you feel about God watching you 24/7?

What sort of person do your colleagues at work think you are? Why is that?

Is your ambition greater than your faithfulness and integrity?

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 3: Ruth – Reaped What She Sowed**

#### **Reading**

Ruth 2:8-18.

#### **Reaped What She Sowed**

Have you noticed that often it is not until after someone has accomplished some great achievement that we find out how much preparation and dedication had been put into it?

I like reading biographies of statesmen and women and other people who have led significant lives. Two of my favourites are Norman Schwarzkopf and Peter De La Billiere. They were the Generals leading the U.S. and British Troops during the successful Desert Storm Gulf War in 1990. However, the thing that stood out the most to me was that if there were ever two people who were totally trained and prepared for such a campaign, it was those two. They were *'made to measure'* in every way. It was, therefore, of no surprise to me that they won such a stunning victory.

God had been watching Boaz and Ruth all their lives. When He brought them together it was in His perfect will and in His perfect timing. God knew their hearts and that they would be suitable to be a part of His Story on earth. They gave of themselves generously to God so He could use them generously for the world.

Naomi was delighted to learn of Boaz' kindness. She knew this man would care for Ruth and watch over her. Boaz became not only their provider but also their protector. Out of despair and wretchedness, Naomi and Ruth found grace, peace, joy, love and care. Boaz provided all they needed and restored to them their sense of self-worth and significance. They could face the present with peace and the future with hope. All through both harvests they were supplied with everything they required.

God is our refuge and strength. No matter what circumstances you are facing, never forget God. Just as with Ruth, you may not recognise Him or the significance of what He has planned; however, keep trusting Him to provide for you because He will do so. He is our Provider, our Security, our Strength and our Hope. Leave the outcome and the process to Him – learn to be content with where you are and leave the rest to Him. His ways are always best and the Best is yet to come!

When you are facing the impossible – you have to trust God. When you get to the end of your resources – it's time to trust God. So no matter the crisis or challenge you are facing today – seek your advice from God and then act upon it – the result is up to Him, so trust Him.

I love it when people come up to me for a prayer for healing and say – the medics have given up – there is nothing more they can do – please will you pray for me? I love it because the outcome has

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 3 continued: Ruth – Reaped What She Sowed**

to be God-given then, hasn't it? Each and all of us have to face challenges and difficulties, which are beyond our capabilities to handle. Some come from our own poor choices or mistakes, others from left field, but no matter where they come from, God is able to bring us through.

We need to hand them over to Him and then trust Him for the deliverance in whatever way He chooses – and in His time. So hang in there – He knows all about your situation and is working out His best result – in you and for you.

Our job is to keep trusting Him and get on with the task in front of us. To work diligently in all we do and leave the outcome to God. He is faithful and just, and will reward us as He has planned, when the time is right.

#### **Ruth would say to us today...**

You reap what you sow – it's a divine principle. If you sow sparingly you will reap sparingly; if you sow generously you will reap generously in due course.

#### **Prayer**

*Father, thank You that You have a plan and purpose for my life. Please help me work at what is before me today so that I make the most of all the opportunities You present me with and so fulfil my mission on earth. For Your glory, Amen.*

#### **Additional readings**

Genesis 45; Psalm 46; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

#### **Questions**

Why does the grass always appear greener on the other side of the fence?

What is the little thing God has asked you to do for the present?

How can you do it better?

## ***Lessons From the People of the Bible***

### **Lesson 4: Ruth – Was Purchased By Her Redeemer**

#### **Reading**

Ruth 2:19-23.

#### **Was Purchased By Her Redeemer**

Overcome by the generosity of the owner of the field where Ruth gleaned, Naomi wanted to find out more – whose field was it? When she learnt that it was Boaz' field, her heart must have missed a beat. Boaz had evidently been a kind and supportive relative to Naomi and her family before they left for Moab. Now his inherent goodness was revealed once more, through his graciousness and liberality to Ruth.

Naomi's joy was intensified by the realisation that he was one of the folk who had the right to redeem their land. In those days if a male died leaving no heir – especially a male heir – his land was forfeited to the closest relative. That relative could buy the land and marry the deceased's widow.

In this case Boaz was one of the relatives who could redeem the land and he would then receive Ruth as 'part of the package'. Boaz could therefore make everything 'right' once more. No longer would Naomi and Ruth be outcasts and 'orphans' but they would have the joy of being included as family once more. That's what Jesus has done for us. We were outcasts and orphans without God but Jesus died to bring us back – to redeem us – into the family of God. Hallelujah!

Ruth had gone to Boaz for redemption – he gave her that and even more; he provided for her needs. It's a beautiful picture of God. We are helpless and hopeless without God. We desperately need provision and protection. But our basic need is salvation. We need to be redeemed from the enemy – that needs to happen first. We are captives of the enemy and under the sentence of God's wrath. We desperately need to be forgiven and set free. That's what Jesus accomplished for us on the Cross – all we need to do is acknowledge our need of salvation and accept His forgiveness. That happens when we become a Christian.

However, we also become a Child of God and, as such, receive all the blessings of God. All the things mentioned in our reading from Ephesians 1 become ours straight away – that is an incredible example of God's amazing grace. Instead of receiving what we deserve – God's wrath, death and Hell for eternity – we receive forgiveness, help, health, hope and every spiritual blessing in Christ, and on top of all that – God treats us as one of His children. Wow! Why would anyone not want to be a Christian? Thank God this morning and then determine to tell someone this Good News soon.

God always answers prayer! Yes, sometimes the answer is No – because we ask with the wrong motives or it is outside God's will for us. But God has never refused a cry for mercy yet! As soon as

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 4 continued: Ruth – Was Purchased By Her Redeemer**

someone humbly prays a prayer asking God to forgive them and become their Saviour / Redeemer, He acts on it straight away. By definition, a Redeemer acts on our behalf *because we can't!* He doesn't wait for us to get better – that's not an option. He doesn't wait for us to perform or achieve – that is not an option. We go to our Saviour / Redeemer because there is nothing else we can do. There is no help or solution outside of Him. He is Plan A and there is no Plan B! Outside of Christ Jesus there is NO Saviour – no matter where you look.

Boaz was a man of action, as we shall see later. Jesus is a "Man of Action", too. As Paul reminds us – Jesus left the glory and splendour of Heaven and came down to this earth to save and redeem us. He came as our Servant and died for us.

Is it too much for us to become His servant in response? Surely our hearts can only cry out in response: What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord! Will you live for Him as His servant today and for the rest of your life?

#### **Ruth would say to us today...**

Your Redeemer lives. We are all in desperate need of help. We have all found life too difficult and we so often let ourselves down – as well as God. When we come to the end of ourselves – we need to cry out to God for forgiveness and help. He is just waiting for us to do so. When we do, it's then we find – Our Redeemer lives.

#### **Prayer**

*Father, I thank You that You love me unconditionally. I thank You that although I fail You, ignore You and go my own way – You have made a way for me to return to You. Thank You, Jesus, for being my Redeemer – today and every day. Amen.*

#### **Additional readings**

Job 19:1-27; 1 Peter 1:13-21; Philippians 2:12-18.

#### **Questions**

Why do we find it hard to submit our lives to God?

Why does God want us to fully rely upon Him?

Why do we want to be constantly in 'control'?



## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 5: Ruth – Was The Recipient Of Amazing Grace**

#### **Reading**

Ruth 3:1-17.

#### **Was The Recipient Of Amazing Grace**

God takes the outcasts of this world and bonds them into His family. And yet, He is not even content with that – He wants to bless them in every way. Ruth was not only encouraged to glean from the leftovers, she was wined and dined by the Boss and then ‘given’ more besides – some of the best. That was grace!

She deserved to be treated like a foreigner and that was all she had expected; instead, she was treated like one of Boaz’ own servants. That’s what God does for us. We are outside the Jewish family but have been grafted in through God’s grace so we have the same standing and the same privileges as all of His children. We are all treated the same and given every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus – isn’t that awesome? Do you feel special today – you should – because you are.

Ruth became her most vulnerable. Yes, she had met Boaz; yes, she had spoken to him, and he had shown her kindness – in the past – but what about now? This was a whole new ball game for her. Providing food was one thing, expending money was another. She had to believe in Naomi and her advice and then expect a miracle. The miraculous always follows obedience.

Throughout Scripture we find that God honours obedience. Especially, simple faith. Ruth just did as she was told and left the rest to God – her new found God, the God of the Israelites – El Shaddai – Jehovah Jireh.

We need to have an honest view of who we are. Ruth knew who she was. She told Boaz – *I’m your servant and you are my kinsman-redeemer*. I’m nothing – you are everything to me. Paul reveals to us in Philippians 3 that all his achievements meant nothing. Even his impeccable heritage meant nothing before God. We stand or fall entirely upon our relationship with God. We are nothing without God. With God – He becomes everything for us. We are His servants and He is our only Redeemer / Saviour. Who are you, really? Where do you get your self-worth? From work, your family line, your achievements or your wealth? Paul says they count for nothing. No. We need to be redeemed by Jesus Christ and then we become a Prince or Princess of the King. That is all the self-worth we will ever need.

Another vital question we need to be able to answer is – What do you want God to do for you? Ruth was destitute, an outcast, and helpless. She could have asked Boaz for anything – money, food and clothes. But she knew she needed much more than these – she needed a Redeemer. The other things were urgent and temporary but she was wiser; she knew she needed a permanent solution, not just a quick fix.

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 5 continued: Ruth – Was The Recipient Of Amazing Grace**

We have to be humble enough to admit our need of a Saviour. We have to admit that we are nothing without Jesus. We cannot breathe one breath without the grace of God. Never ever forget that! He is Sovereign; we are His servants. As you pray to your Heavenly Father today, don't just go 'through the motions'; don't just repeat, parrot-fashion, your normal daily prayers – stop, think and then ask God for what you want Him to do for you. Be brave – ask Him and believe in faith that He will answer you.

Having had her encounter with Boaz and shared her heart's desire with him, she went back to sleep. She didn't lie awake scheming on his behalf. She didn't exhaust herself speculating on all that might happen and covering every scenario, just in case she would have to think of something else. She went to sleep and left the problem with Boaz. He had the right and authority to fix it – she didn't. Peter reminds us that God cares about us. We are supposed to give Him all our cares and then leave them with Him. So stop speculating and worrying. Jesus has the right and authority to fix them.

#### **Ruth would say to us today...**

Grace gives us what we don't deserve. Yes, work conscientiously, serve God wholeheartedly but know this – God always gives us far more than we deserve.

#### **Prayer**

*Father, I want to thank You that You are all I need. I thank You that You are alive forever, You are a good God and You are God Almighty – there is nothing You cannot do. Please help me remember that You think I am precious too. For Your Name's sake. Amen.*

#### **Additional readings**

Ephesians 1:3-14; Philippians 3:1-14; 1 Peter 5:5-11.

#### **Questions**

How do we learn to give God our anxieties, etc, and then leave them there?

Write down how God's grace has been evident in your life.

How can we hamper receiving God's grace?

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 6: Ruth – Found Security In Her New Marriage Relationship**

#### **Reading**

Ruth 4:1-12.

#### **Found Security In Her New Marriage Relationship**

Boaz lost no time at all carrying out all that he said he would do. He invited the kinsman-redeemer with the priority right to join him, and then sought out the tribal chiefs and local town elders. Once they were assembled he presented his case. He offered the other man the privilege of redeeming Naomi's family's land even though he had already quite obviously set his heart on it.

Ruth had handed the issue over to God; now it was Boaz' turn. He was a man of integrity, so whilst he was vehement in his desire to redeem the situation, he had to, nevertheless, offer it to the one with the priority claim. He had to sit and wait on his 'opponent's' decision. God had instituted the 'rules' and he could trust God to bring about His righteous solution.

Yes, it wasn't just a bargain or a contract – it was a promise and covenant. Yes, there was a monetary side to it but it was far more than just a deal. It was a promise of a home, security and a future – which would be realised by a child-heir. In other words, he was promising to marry Ruth and be totally faithful to her, and to provide an offspring to her (and her late husband). He was to invest his past and present into her future – what a guy – what an act of humility. He was not only going to bless her but the rest of the world through her – through her child.

Furthermore, Boaz didn't just say it in private – he said it in front of all those witnesses. They could hold him to his decision because for Boaz there was no going back, no renegeing – it was final. Just as it is with all of God's promises.

That is why Christian Marriage is sacred. It is not just an agreement or contract – it is a promise, a covenant – *until death separates us*. God gave Abraham a covenant. He promised to not only bless Abraham but also all the nations of the earth through him. God blessed Abraham in all sorts of ways – just as He promised. However, God has blessed all nations through Him as well – just as He promised. As Christians, we are the 'spiritual' children of Abraham through our faith in Christ Jesus – because Abraham is the 'Father of the Faithful'.

The elders were obviously overwhelmed by Boaz' grace and actions. He was known as a man of integrity – now he had peaked in his faithfulness and love. They were ecstatic and burst into spontaneous praise. They desired that Ruth would be like their patriarchal greats – Leah, Rachel and Tamar.

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 6 continued: Ruth – Found Security In Her New Marriage Relationship**

Tamar's case wasn't unlike that of Ruth, in that she had to be 'rescued' by Judah from childlessness. How prophetic their outburst – for Ruth became one of them – of equal standing and of equal importance, in the line of King David. And a blessing to the whole world, as we shall soon discover.

What about you? Has God given you a 'prophecy', or do you have a dream or vision, which seems dead? Don't give it up. Give it back to God and tell Him you are still waiting and believing for Him to make it happen. And remember – it may be fulfilled in the most unexpected way – so don't give in to unbelief or speculation. When the time is right – God will do it – and it will be well worth waiting for.

#### **Ruth would say to us today...**

Love is a choice. Marriage is a choice, and there is no greater privilege in life than being able to enjoy a good marriage. It's worth working at and it's worth making the decision to maintain a total commitment to your spouse.

#### **Prayer**

*Thank You, Father, for all those people who are great role models of marriage and faithful commitment. Help me to play my part in the relationships I have to show a similar love and commitment. For Your Name's sake. Amen.*

#### **Additional readings**

1 Peter 2:4-10; Genesis 12:1-3; Jeremiah 31:31-34.

#### **Questions**

Why didn't the other kinsman-redeemer want to fulfil his duty?

Why did the people want Ruth to become like Rachel and Leah?

Who was Tamar and how did she become the 'wife' of Judah and mother of Perez?

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 7: Ruth – Became Part Of The Royal Family**

#### **Reading**

Ruth 4:13-22.

#### **Became Part Of The Royal Family**

God makes babies! He still does. We may think we can control our bodies and in many ways He allows us to do so – but God is the One who makes babies.

The promise was fulfilled and Ruth became the mother of a son and heir. Ruth's status of outcast and widowhood was gone forever, lost in the wonder of being a mother in Israel, in the line of Judah and in the standing of Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel and Tamar.

There is no greater status for any of us than being a Prince or Princess of the King – and that is what each of us becomes when we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Your human heritage doesn't count; your past is of no consequence – we become of Royal descent and lineage – Abraham is our 'father' and Christ Jesus our 'Brother'.

What greater privilege or status do you seek? Why not spend some time right now thanking God for His incredible love?

We never get over the wonder and excitement of childbirth, do we? Even the most unemotional man can be seen with a tear in his eye once he becomes a Dad – especially if the baby is a son. For the mother, the pain of childbirth is forgotten in the overwhelming joy of holding her own baby.

There personified is everyone's hope – a life full of promise; the continuation of humanity; the prospect of a life of distinction, and the satisfaction that the family name will live on in the generations to come.

Here we read of the joy to Naomi. The kinsman-redeemer has fulfilled his mission! Ruth has borne her a son. Naomi became the appropriately doting mother-in-law/grandmother. Every child has a destiny. Every child is a message of love from God.

The very climax of our story. It is absolutely right to live one day at a time; however, we need to try and remember that there is a bigger picture being painted on earth by God. We are only a very small speck on the huge canvas God is using to tell His Story. That is why it is so important that we have an eternal perspective, instead of the world-driven instant gratification perspective.

In historical terms, we are just as the Psalmist says – a vapour, here for a few seconds, and then 'burned off' by the sun. If our lives don't have an eternal perspective, they are wasted. Boaz was more than a landowner, more than the son of Salmon, a husband to Ruth, and a father of Obed.

## **Lessons From the People of the Bible**

### **Lesson 7 continued: Ruth – Became Part Of The Royal Family**

He was the son of Rahab, the prostitute from Jericho, and a direct descendant of Judah. He and Ruth became the great grandparents of none other than the great king David, and, in turn, the royal line of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Never ever think that your life is of no consequence. Never think that it is of so little value that it doesn't really matter how you live or what you do. As a Christian, you are a person with destiny. You are a Prince or Princess of the King – so value your life; don't waste it on this world, and its values and pleasures – in the eternal scheme of things and the plan of God, it is of incalculable worth. Jesus thought so – that's why He came to die for you.

Don't let the enemy con you – you are of inestimable value and your life is of utmost importance to God. You have no concept of what He has in store for you or what He wants to achieve through you. Don't hold back – go for gold – give Him your all!

#### **Ruth would say to us today...**

I was an outcast – a foreigner and a refugee. But by God's grace, not only did I become a 'mother in Israel', I also became the grandmother of King David and a vital link in the chain of the lineage of Israel's Messiah. We see life just as it is before us – God sees right from the beginning to the end. Wait for His ending – it is beyond our wildest dreams.

#### **Prayer**

*Father, please help me remember that there is no such thing as humdrum for You. My life may seem insignificant to me but you know all about it. Please help me to run the race and finish the course You have destined for me, with my eyes and heart focused on eternity with You. For Your Name's sake. Amen.*

#### **Additional readings**

Matthew 1:1-17; 2 Timothy 4:5-7; Revelation 21:1-7.

#### **Questions**

Why doesn't God let us know everything at once?

How do we keep focused on Eternity?

What disciplines are you engaged in to ensure you finish well?