



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Noble Birth and Noble Character

August 18, 2019

Ruth 3:1-12 & 16-18

“And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman” (Ruth 3:11).

When the Apostle Paul wrote about Christians in the church, he said not many of them were of noble birth; however, through faith in Jesus Christ and obeying Jesus’ commands they all could develop a noble character. It does not matter so much how we begin life, whether of royal blood or not, but it makes an eternal difference how we end life. For example, Ruth began life as a Moabite who worshiped idols. She was outside the people of God, but she married a man who had moved from Bethlehem to Moab with his father and mother. Though he died before they had children, Ruth learned about the true God from him and his mother, Naomi. Though Naomi’s faith was feeble from much suffering, Ruth saw enough of the truth of God in what Naomi said and did to make the God of Israel her God and Naomi’s people her people. After Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem in Judah, Ruth’s hard work and sacrifices for her mother demonstrated that she was a worthy woman with a noble character. Boaz met Ruth as she was gleaning in his field, and he looked after her as he protected all the young women who worked in his fields. He treated all of them as though they were his daughters. Ruth knew Boaz would make a perfect husband. Therefore, Ruth asked Boaz to marry her according to the laws of God regarding childless widows of family members. After they were married, Ruth became the ancestor of many kings, including King Jesus.

Thinking Further

1. Do you think Ruth would have made a good wife for Boaz? Why or why not.
2. Do you think Boaz would have made a good husband for Ruth? Why or why not.
3. In what way did the Law of God provide for the security of childless widows?
4. What did Boaz mean when he spoke of Ruth's loyalty being better than the first?
5. What reason did Boaz give Ruth for doing what she asked?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.
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