

*Ruth 3:10-12*

*"The LORD bless you, my daughter," Boaz replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character."*

Mother's Day is when we celebrate the dedicated service by women of noble character who have earned the title *Mom*. While Mother's Day is an annual awards banquet for those who are essential to the daily operation of families, I wonder if we have forgotten how to train our children to be women of noble character in order to become mothers worthy of honor and respect. Just as important, young men need to be trained to recognize a woman of noble character and how they need to prepare themselves for marriage with such an honorable woman.

First, understand that the decisions you make before you consider marriage will affect who you do marry. Ruth made the decision before meeting Boaz that following God was the most important decision she could ever make. She decided to follow the God of Israel, which prevented her from staying in her own land where she would only find men who worshipped false gods. Her decision to follow God paved the way for her to meet a righteous mate when the time came.

Second, she strived for godly character in herself and then associated herself with others who shared her passion for godly character. Through her obedience and care for her mother-in-law, Ruth demonstrated her desire for godly character through God's strength. Godly character is attractive to people who strive for godly character. The quickest shortcut to disaster is for people to choose superficial compatibility with those who enjoy the same pastimes, make a good living, or treat them well when they compromise their holiness. Instead, seek the deepest levels of spiritual compatibility, not compromise. Look for others with a passion for God and His people and make your associations there.

Third, run and don't walk to the nearest exit when you see the "all about me" mindset in a potential mate. It is never all about another person; it is always about God and the fulfillment of His purposes and promises. Anyone who focuses on their needs to the exclusion of others is destined for despair. When our focus is on His purposes and promises, we are released from being a hostage to performance love, the kind that dictates devotion and affection conditioned on compromise and isolation from the Body of Christ.

Ruth and Boaz are the picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ and His Church. Boaz is the provider and the protector of his bride. This allows Ruth to be an example of a woman under the gracious protection and care of the Sovereign God, which will cause her to be a mother worthy of praise and true honor. If this Mother's Day you have not trusted in the saving work of Jesus Christ on your behalf, I urge you to trust Him today. He paid the price with His blood so that you might be called righteous in Him. Come to Him today.