

CHARACTER

MATTERS

RUTH • Part 1 • May 21, 2017 • #CharacterMatters

A STRATEGIC GOD

The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. (Psalm 37:23)

When life seems to make no sense...

As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand. (Jeremiah 18:6)

"Don't call me Naomi," she responded. "Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me home empty. (Ruth 1:20-21)

1. _____ me to the _____

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye; but Ruth embraced her and held on. Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is going back home to live with her own people and gods; go with her." But Ruth said, "Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my God; (Ruth 1:14-16, MSG)

2. _____ me out of _____

And so Naomi was back, and Ruth the foreigner with her, back from the country of Moab. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. (Ruth 1:22, MSG)

3. _____ me with _____

Boaz ordered his young men, "Let her gather grain right among the sheaves without stopping her. And pull out some heads of barley from the bundles and drop them on purpose for her. Let her pick them up, and don't give her a hard time!" (Ruth 2:15-16)

NOTHING JUST HAPPENS

"Don't you worry about a thing; I'll do all you could want or ask." (Ruth 3:10, MSG)

So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the LORD enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. Then the women of the town said to Naomi, "Praise the LORD, who has now provided a redeemer for your family...Now at last Naomi has a son again!"

Nothing can stop _____

1. God _____ me and _____ for me.

If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. (Romans 8:31-32, 35-37)

2. God has a _____ for _____ through me.

And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David. (Ruth 4:13-17)

For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

3. God will _____ of me.

[Jesus said] "What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes." (Matthew 6:34,MSG)

Keep _____ and _____



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GOD HAS A PURPOSE IN EVERYTHING

As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand. (Jeremiah 18:6)

"Don't call me Naomi," she responded. "Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me home empty. (Ruth 1:20-21)

1. Connecting me to the right people.

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye; but Ruth embraced her and held on. Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is going back home to live with her own people and gods; go with her." But Ruth said, "Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my God; (Ruth 1:14-16, MSG)

2. Shifting me out of my comfort zone.

And so Naomi was back, and Ruth the foreigner with her, back from the country of Moab. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. (Ruth 1:22, MSG)

3. Providing me with everything I need.

Boaz ordered his young men, "Let her gather grain right among the sheaves without stopping her. And pull out some heads of barley from the bundles and drop them on purpose for her. Let her pick them up, and don't give her a hard time!" (Ruth 2:15-16)

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So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the LORD enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. Then the women of the town said to Naomi, "Praise the LORD, who has now provided a redeemer for your family...Now at last Naomi has a son again!"

Nothing can stop what God sets in motion.

1. God loves me and wants the best for me.

If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. (Romans 8:31-32, 35-37)

2. God has a plan for future generations through me.

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3. God will always take care of me.

[Jesus said] "What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes." (Matthew 6:34,MSG)

Keep trusting God and take the next step.



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