

“ALL THE PEOPLE... KNOW THAT YOU ARE A VIRTUOUS WOMAN”

INTRODUCTION

A. Ruth 3:11

Ruth the Moabitess had a reputation for virtue.

B. Proverbs 22:1

A good reputation is one of the most valuable things any person could possess.

C. Proverbs 31:10

Ruth's reputation centered on her virtue and that increases the value of her reputation. How did she gain such a reputation?

I. RUTH WAS LOYAL

A. Ruth 1:16-17

When Ruth and her mother-in-law were both bereft of husbands, Naomi set out to return to her home in Bethlehem, and told her widowed daughters-in-law to stay at in Moab, but Ruth was determined to stay with Naomi.

B. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

It is important to have someone at your side whom you can depend on.

II. RUTH WORKED HARD

A. Leviticus 23:22

The Law of Moses forbade reaping 100% of the harvest because something had to be left for the poor. It was not simply given to them, but left for them to glean, themselves, that they might work for it.

B. Ruth 2:1-7, 17

Ruth was mindful of this concept and worked from morning until evening to have food for herself and Naomi.

C. 2nd Thessalonians 3:10-12

Only those willing to work deserve to eat. Ruth was a worker.

III. RUTH WAS GRATEFUL

A. **Ruth 2:8-10**

Ruth was humble and did regard her conduct as noteworthy even when others did. She received Boaz's kindness graciously.

B. **1st Thessalonians 5:18**

Giving thanks in everything means giving thanks through bereavement, through destitution, through distance from home. She did not have complaints, although others certainly would have.

IV. RUTH HEEDED HER MOTHER-IN-LAW

A. **Deuteronomy 25:5-6**

The Law in Israel was that the dead man's brother was to marry the childless widow, and Boaz qualified as a near-kinsman (**Ruth 2:1, 20; 3:9**).

B. **Ruth 3:1-5**

Once she understood Boaz was favorably inclined toward Ruth, Naomi came up with a plan for them to wed in accordance with the Law.

C. **Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; 7:1; Titus 2:1-8**

Older men and women, especially parents and those in parental roles, should be listened to. It's their duty to give instruction, and that instruction should be considered.

CONCLUSION

A. **Ruth 4:13-15**

Ruth was "*better than seven sons*." That is an impressive reputation.

B. **Matthew 1:1, 5**

Ruth was one of very few women to be singled out in Jesus' family tree.