



Daily Devotionals

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RUTH 2:5-13 BEAUTY THAT LASTS

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⁵ Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, "Whose young woman is that?"

⁶ The foreman replied, "She is the Moabitess who came back from Moab with Naomi. ⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

⁸ So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. ⁹ Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."

Ruth was obviously beautiful! But her beauty may well not have been her physical appearance. After all, Ruth was out in the field in the heat of the day, probably covered with dust and sweat and anything other than at her cosmetic best. In addition, if she were physically a beauty queen one might have expected it to have been mentioned, or even have caused her some unwanted attention before this. Furthermore, the foreman in the field did not say, "Whoa, Boaz, she sure is a looker, isn't she!" Rather he explained to Boaz that she was Naomi's foreign daughter-in-law, who had returned from Moab with her mother-in-law and exhibited an impressive work ethic. Boaz, for his part, being a mature man knew the importance of fidelity, sacrificial kindness and hard work in another person. Ruth was a woman whose beauty shown from deep within and would not fade with time or adversity. She was a treasure to be cherished and protected and Boaz being a man of God immediately recognized and responded to that fact.

Outward appearance certainly helps to draw attention to us and knowing that, we spend our money, time and effort in developing, modifying, decorating and otherwise sprucing up our visual package. But what do we do for the person beneath the surface? A side effect of our preoccupation with surface issues is that we focus on ourselves and have little time or energy to expend upon others. Ruth was not worried about the condition of her nail polish or the message her hair style was sending to others, she was committed to doing what she could to support her mother-in-law.

Like Boaz, Jesus looks below our surface attributes and assesses our character. To him, the truly beautiful are those whose attitudes and actions are driven by their love of God and neighbor. The only lasting fruit is that of the Spirit; “*love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*” (Galatians 5:22-23).

To look at it another way – you are going to get a new body at the resurrection anyway.

Lord Jesus, as the beauty of Ruth was found in her character, remold my character by your Spirit so that I might be beautiful on the inside. Transform me from a white-washed sepulcher into a precious and living stone in your kingdom. Help me strive for inner purity. Amen.

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