Daily Devotion #185

**A Woman of Excellence**

**Ruth 3:11 (NASB)** *"Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence*.”

My father fell asleep, as Scriputure says of those who die, on September 16 of this year. He lived a very wonderful and productive live for eighty-five years. He was a public servant for over sixty years. He first served in the armed forces retiring with the rank of Lt. Colonel. For the next twenty years he served as town manager of our local town. After that he served as the regional director for the local city working to develop new businesses to help grow the economy. After that he served as a member of the board of superviors for the county for almost three full terms. In addition to all that, he was a long-time member of his local church, serving as Sunday School director as well as holding many public positions within his church’s demonination. He was known and loved by many.

That sounds like I am rewriting his obituary. Maybe that is true to some degree but my real purpose for writing that is highlight someone else very close to him and to me - my mother. For all those years of my dad’s service to others and the community, my mom stood by him. She was to me a model of what it means to be a faithful, loving, supportive wife. She not only supported his public life and spiritual life, but she also was very involved in the community and the lives of people herself. She was a public school teacher for over thirty years, a mother of three children, a mother-in-law and a grandmother. She had a very busy and productive life.

Most men, if they are honest, will tell you that behind every good man is a good woman. That is not just a phrase that someone made up, but it really is true. Many men have lived very productive and beneficial lives for others, and many men have seen their ruin because of the women who stand with them. Some men are greatly encouraged by their wives and the support they offer, and some men have had horrible public and private lives because of the women in their lives.

God knew this when He said, as he made man in the Garden of Eden, that it was not good for man to be alone. God knew that the animal world would not suffice. He knew that man needed a companion, the same as his making. So he made woman. And every man knows that God made an excellent decision. At least those men who have been blessed with women who love God and serve Him above all people and things.

Ruth was one such woman. She came to know the Lord as a result of her mother-in-law, Naomi. Naomi was Hebrew, a follower of God, and Ruth was married to one of Naomi’s sons. We are told that both of their husbands died, leaving them with only each other. For many women, being left with only their mothers-in-law would not be a good thing. But Naomi loved and followed God, and because Ruth loved Naomi and saw in her a love for God like no one she had ever met, she also became a follower of God.

As time passed, Naomi learned about a man name Boaz, one of her relatives. So Naomi encouraged Ruth to meet him. When they met, Boaz already knew about her. He knew her because of her reputation that had evidently spread among the people. A good reputation. She was to Boaz, a woman of excellence. That didn’t mean she was perfect, but her heart was so in love with God that she determined to live her life as a faithful servant to Him. Interestingly, Ruth never saw that in herself. For her, she was being faithful to God only because He was her God. And beyond that, she was simply fulfilling her loving obligation to her mother-in-law.

That is the way excellent women live. They live for God. No matter what He asks of them. If it is to be a wife and mother or grandmother, they excel in that. If it is to be a public servant or leader in the community or in the workplace, they excel in that. No matter what they find themselves doing in life, their focus is to serve God and to be an excellent disciple of His.

Dear sisters in the Lord, live life today as an excellent servant of God. All the people in your life will be blessed because of you. Your name will be remembered as a woman who feared the Lord. Your children will rise up and call you blessed. Your God will be honored. There are no more lasting impressions than these.