

Book of Ruth

DAY FIVE QUESTIONS

"A Man of Character!"

1. One of the verses shared today was Colossians 3:23. Read Colossians 3:22-24. What does it mean to you to curry favor? According to Miriam Webster, to curry favor is to "seek to gain approving consideration or attention by giving flattery or attention."
We all do it. I've done it. I continually have to check my motives when I'm doing anything that could receive attention or approval from others. We all want the approval of men; we want the pat on the back; the notice for all of our hard work. The definition above shows that, while it may appear that you are doing something kind or beneficial for others through your words (flattery) or deeds (attention), the only reason you are doing it is for yourself. That, sisters, is the height of selfishness. If you will only help someone or say something nice because you expect to get something in return (attention, praise, etc.), then whatever you do get from them is your reward. That's it. Short term results instead of eternal reward.
2. Consider situations that you have been in where your desire is to curry favor *above* serving God. What would those situations look like in the short term if you served God instead of sought favor? What would they look like in the long term?
3. Read Romans 5:6-8. When Christ came to die for the ungodly, what did we have to offer Him in return? (Hint: check verse 6)

4. Now, read Romans 5:9-10. It was while we were still His ENEMIES that Christ died for us. Ponder that a minute. What does that say about our Savior? What does it say about you and your worth to Him?

5. 1 Peter 2:11-25. Paul urges us to live lives that will glorify—not ourselves—God! We are called to submit not just to good masters, but to those who are harsh. (NOTE: This is NOT a license for abusive behavior!! BUT, your husband calling you for the 100th time to ask you to pick up the dry cleaning isn't abuse; it's an opportunity for you to "die to self" and serve him with love.) We will suffer in this life folks; we are guaranteed that. If we are to imitate Christ, what does verse 23 say that Christ did when He was insulted? How should we respond likewise?

6. Finally, read Philippians 2:5-11. Our Savior didn't consider equality with God something to be clung to or held onto or used for His own advantage, but He gave it up, making Himself NOTHING. What needs to change in your mindset so that it draws ever nearer in line with our Savior and His willingness to humble Himself to death on a cross?