

Chickadee Chatter

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Grand Chapter of Maine, Order of the Eastern Star

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Ruth's Story from the Mason's Lady

Ruth, like Esther has an entire book of the Bible named after her. The book, unlike many books in the Bible, is set up in chronological order and is a stand alone story. It is broken up into four chapters, kind of like acts in a play. When we first meet Ruth, a terrible famine has taken over Israel, and has taken the life of her husband as well as his brother and father. Her mother-in-law tells her to go and remarry. Ruth's sister-in-law goes with some hesitation, but Ruth tells her mother-in-law, Naomi that she will go with her.

So Ruth goes with Naomi back to her home town, Bethlehem. Ruth knows that she needs to be able to support both herself and her mother-in-law, so she goes to the field to glean wheat. The field that she happened to harvest in that day belonged to a man named Boaz. He had heard of Ruth's kindness, and unwillingness to leave her mother-in-law after the deaths of her husband and children. Boaz was actually a close relative of Naomi's, which under Levite law obligated him to marry his kin's widow, you guessed it, Ruth. So, Naomi sent Ruth down to the threshing floor, and submit herself at the feet of Boaz.

However, Boaz knew that another man was a closer kin than himself. Luckily for them, the man was not willing to risk his inheritance, so he gives up his right to marry her. The two are wed, and Ruth eventually becomes the great-grandmother of the Biblical hero David. Not exactly the most romantic story out there, but one that a lesson can be learned from nonetheless.

Ruth knew who she was, even when everything in her life seemed lost. Imagine losing your husband, and living with your mother-in-law, and being so dedicated to her and her family, that you are willing to give up your own identity, your own birthright, to show your love for her. That's some pretty powerful stuff. Even if we are not yet widows, we can learn from the kindness that Ruth showed to her family, even in times of desperation. It is also a wonderful reminder to turn to your family in times of need.

Although there is an entire book about Ruth, it is not a terribly long one. If you get a chance, pull out a Bible and read it.

Unity Is A Nice Word

U is for understanding. At times we're misunderstood, which is sad. Many times we are asked for an opinion and give it with all the data that is known to us at that moment; another day you would have changed your opinion and not said that at all.

N is for the nice things that happen in the Order of the Eastern Star. You will receive so much more than you give. You have the opportunity of meeting people, of helping others. You get back much – to belong to this Order is a reward in itself. It is our heritage. It is something given to us by our husbands, our sons, our fathers, or our brothers, so cherish it. We are truly indebted to the Brothers, as without them we wouldn't have an Eastern Star.

I is for importance. Many times when people are standing for office they will sort of shake hands and politic the same as any other organization. They're around speaking to everybody very friendly but after they are elected, they forget. Remember I is for importance. You are only important as long as you remember the importance of others.

T is for tribute. There were members here last year who are not here this year. To those that aren't here we give a tribute. Their silvery voices that we loved to hear are silent now and stilled are the helpful hands, but we know that God will use them in the promised land.

Y is for you. The last letter of Unity is Y. That means you. In every chapter there are three groups of people. Those that do the work, the ones that watch it being done, and lastly the ones that don't even know it is being done. If you are on that last group, please change over and get on the first group. You'll be happier and your chapter and jurisdiction will be better for it.

Quickie Questions on Ruth

(Answers on page two)

1. What does the name Ruth stand for?
2. Where was Ruth's original home?
3. How did Ruth meet Boaz?
4. What flower at present is dedicated to Ruth?
5. Who was Orpah?

Time For Our Heroines

When you were a small child one of the often asked questions was *Mother, what time is it?* You learned to watch the hands of the clock as they turned to each hour of the day. What a wonderful time for us to honor the heroines of our Order as we travel around the clock of our teachings.

As we begin our travels, we arrive at seven o'clock, where the daughter, Adah stands to greet her father with music and dancing as he arrives from the battle. She is so beautiful in her gown and veil of blue. Time for her stood still that fateful day. Ever faithful to her moral obligations she remained true to her father's promise by the great sacrifice of her life.

Next we travel on to nine o'clock and we see a weary traveler as the widow Ruth makes her way to a new home. Dressed in gold for the harvest, she gleaned in the fields of Boaz. She provided for herself and her aged mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth's spirits were lifted by the friendship of Boaz. Ruth remained true to Naomi's family and belief. She remained faithful to the demands of honor and justice.

As we travel on, the hands of the clock carry us to twelve o'clock. There we see a beautiful Jewish maiden, Queen Esther, clothed in her queenly attire of white, with her magnificent beauty destined to become the wife of the king, to save her people from extermination. After learning of the evil plan, Esther and her servants and family fasted and prayed that her people would be saved from destruction. Her fidelity to kindred and friends is the commendable virtue of Queen Esther.

Time leads us on as we approach the three o'clock time on the clock. There we see Mary and Martha, the sisters, torn with grief for their only brother, who had died. They busily prepared for the visit of Jesus. Martha hastily put on her dress of green and ran to meet Jesus, telling Him of her love for her brother, who had died, and the hope of his resurrection at the last day. But Jesus returned Lazarus to life, fulfilling Martha's trustful faith of hope and immortality.

Once again we look at the hands of time on the clock. It is now five o'clock and we see the mother, Electa dressed in her scarlet robes, preparing to help others in need. As the daylight approaches, she offers a cup to the poor. She resisted the soldiers when they demanded that she give up her religion. Her great love of the Lord is shown by having her household always open to extend help even when persecuted for her belief in God. Her fervency should be a reminder to all who are engaged in the service of love.

Be mindful of time as it is played out in your lives. When you were children, time stood still. Now as adults, time moves at a faster pace. You have been reminded of the heroines of our Order. We can share the stories of our heroines and remember to love one another.

Sister Ruth

B A O M A T S I S S A T E B
A E D E R D N I K H I S C Y
R N T H A P R O C E M E I E
L T C H D E D E G A O O T L
E R U F L G L H I F A G S L
Y E F R I E N D S G N I U O
T A J D M R H E L I G F J W
R T O I O O G E N N H I R K
E G L B N D A R M T L E U Y
V E A O O N U M I N O L T T
O L R L E O Z A O B P D H U
P R S R M T F L L A M S U D

Aged	Friends	Moab
Assist	Gleaner	Mourning
Barley	God	Naomi
Bethlehem	Goest	Orpah
Boaz	Honor	Poverty
Duty	Hue	Ruth
Elimelech	Justice	Sheaf
Entreat	Kindred	Sign
Faithful	Labor	Small
Fields	Lodges	Yellow

Quickie Answers

1. A friend.
2. The Land of Moab.
3. While she was gleaning in his field.
4. The Yellow Jasmine.
5. Naomi's other daughter-in-law.

Web Site

The Maine Order of the Eastern Star's web site is: <http://www.maineoes.org> – this is the place to go to when you want information about our Order in Maine. Current Grand Officers, Chapters and addresses for them, various forms, and a listing of the meetings in Maine etc. Sister Kathy Williamson is the Web Administrator and her email is kackyw@gmail.com.

Chickadee Chatter

Chickadee Chatter is the newsletter that will be published during the 2020-2021 year and distributed currently through *Star News*. If you'd like items printed in it, email it to corleybyras@gmail.com or send it by snail mail to Sister Corley Anne Byras, 72 Smith Street, Unit 4, Augusta, ME 04330.

Star News

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