

Living under the shadow of His wings

October 23, 2011

1. Read Psalm 91:1-5. What are some of the key things that stand out to you?
2. Glance again through the book of Ruth. Which parts really stand out to you?
3. The book teaches us the security of God's providence. God not only created the world but also sustains and rules his world so that we are continuously dependent on him for "life and breath and everything."

Faith in the providence of God is really God's gift to help us cope with life's uncertainties. What do you think about these statements?

4. The book is really about transformation with chapter 2:12 as the key. What does that verse mean to you?
5. This poem written about Ruth really helps me. What do you think?

The enshrouding blackness engulfs my being. Alone. Afraid.
My mind a whirlpool Ever inwards Towards an eternity of intolerable pain.

I used to reach out A hand Into the black unknown In hope.
But my soul was torn from me, And I hoped no more.

It was like a pit. Unfathomable depth. Tortuous grovelling.
My tears the only sound In the impenetrable darkness.

I remember the pit, And the fear, And the hopelessness
Of an eternal agony of mind And the soulness wandering
In uncharted desert.

Now I find myself at this oasis, This unlooked-for harbour, This refuge.
I did not deserve that gracious act To pluck me from that all-powerful deep.

I had no hope, But turning back along the path I came, I see a
gracious hand And a loving smile. I see a guiding light
And feel a protecting wing.

Nestling in your warmth, My cold heart has thawed.
The blackness of my soul Has blossomed into a million blooms.

My tears have turned to jewels, And my bitterness to honey. But I
remember the pit. Keep me, O Lord, Safe In the refuge of your
wings By Elizabeth



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6. I find this prayer very helpful. What do you think?

A prayer for today based on the yesterday of Ruth:

Our Father in heaven, Creator and Sustainer of your world, you hold all that you have made within your gracious providence. We thank you for the rich freedom you have given us. Help us in all things to see your hand, and to live as those whose lives are entrusted to your sovereign care. As Ruth from Moab became one of your people, so you call us by name and invite us home. We are glad to find shelter under the refuge of your wings.

In Jesus Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer, you meet us in our ordinariness and make our human life your own. We thank you for your costly self-giving in redeeming love, setting us free to share the life of your family. You have taken our pains, our sin, our bitterness, and our fear to yourself. Forgive us our sins, and teach us how to forgive. Grant that when, like Naomi, we walk the valley of tears in the evening and the dark, we may not lose sight of the resurrection dawn of hope and joy.

Through the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, you lead us into truth. You enrich the guidance of your law through the personal warmth of your generous love. Boaz went beyond the call of duty in gracious provision for another's need, how much is your gift of grace far more abundant than we could ask or think! Teach us to be alert to the needs of others, and to work for a just distribution of the rich bounty of your world, that each may have daily bread for daily need.

God the Holy Trinity, from you each earthly family receives its name and learns its love. You are the God of history whose purposes span the centuries. Through your family the church you now make known your plan to unite all things in heaven and earth in Jesus Christ our Lord. Before Him, one day, every knee will bow. We give you our lives under the rule of Christ our Lord. For from Him and through Him and in Him are all things. To Him be glory for ever. Amen

7. In what ways has the book of Ruth helped you on the journey of transformation? How has it helped your sense of belonging?