



Part 1: Defining Moments

Just as Jesus overturned the trading tables in the temple, he also overthrows humanity's habit of devaluing women and girls.

~ Carolyn Custis James
The Gospel of Ruth

God originally intended women and men to be co-equal partners in stewarding the earth, without role differentiation, and he has never rescinded that mandate.

~ John Stackhouse, *Theologian*

HELMER: First and foremost, you are a wife and mother.
NORA: That I don't believe any more. I believe that first and foremost I am an individual, just as much as you are.

~ Henrik Ibsen
A Doll's House

The women of the Bible were on the edge. They had courage. They took risks. They did the unexpected. They lived daring lives, and sometimes they made mistakes – big mistakes.

~ Francine Rivers
A Lineage of Grace

The Books of Esther and Ruth are not really stories about their respective "heroines." Rather, they are part of the Bible's larger story about God and his dealings with his people, and with the world.

~ Iain M. Duguid
Reformed Expository Commentary

The book of Ruth is more than just a good story. It is about the resilience of women when they work in solidarity.

~ Isabel Apawo Phiri
Africa Bible Commentary

There is an African proverb that says "When the rain sees dirt on you it does not stop," meaning that often one problem follows another. This was certainly true for Naomi and Ruth.

~ Isabel Apawo Phiri
Africa Bible Commentary

The primary purpose of the book of Ruth is to illustrate how simple, obedient people can be saved by God's providence and become part of His larger plan. We're all a part of something bigger.

~ Tremper Longman
The Importance of Obedience

The book of Ruth is the loveliest unexcelled piece of literature on a small scale.

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
German writer and philosopher

A woman's high calling as God's image bearer renders her *incapable* of significance, no matter what has gone wrong in her life or how much she has lost.

~ Carolyn Custis James
The Gospel of Ruth

Sure God created man before woman. But then you always make a rough draft before the final masterpiece.

~ Susan Shackston, *Comedian*

**So God created human beings in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.**

~ **Genesis 1:27 (TNIV)**