

## **Book of Ruth**

### **DAY NINE QUESTIONS "Meeting at the City Gate"**

1. Read Genesis 15:1-6, 16:1-4. What did God promise Abraham in chapter 15? How did Sarah try to "force God's hand" to provide an heir from her husband in chapter 16?
  
2. Read Genesis 21:1-7. Who was the promised heir of Abraham? Who bore that child?
  
3. Sarah didn't trust God to fulfill His promise to her husband. She listened to the promise and went to work to make sure the letter of the promise was fulfilled; a child from Abraham's flesh. In doing so, she caused herself, her husband, her handmaiden, and her handmaiden's son immeasurable hardship. The consequences of her actions were not removed, but God still fulfilled the promise He made to Abraham by providing an heir through HER in her old age.  
Read Luke 12:22-31. What are we not to be anxious about? (v 22) Why? (v23)
  
4. Do you ever doubt that God knows your needs and will provide them? What assurance can you gain from this passage?

5. God DOES know our needs and will provide for them. Keep in mind, our needs are different than our wants. No one "needs" a \$200,000 car, but a lot of us want one. What are we to seek after, first and foremost, with the promise that those needs will be met?

6. Read Genesis 25:21-23, Genesis 27:1-30 and Genesis 27:41-45  
The Lord told Rebekah that her younger son would be served by her older son. So, when it came time for her husband, Isaac (Abraham's son) to give the blessing to his heir, Rebekah tried to force God's hand, too. Fearing that her younger son would serve the older, she took action and deceived her husband and her older son. In v 41-45, we see just the beginning of the animosity that was created between the brothers because of her actions.

Are there any ways you have you told yourself you were "helping" God, but were really trying to force His hand?

7. Read James 4:13-17. When we try to force God's hand, when we intervene to "help" His will be done (especially by doing things we KNOW are sinful), there are consequences. God's will is still going to be done; if He said it, it's gonna happen. No handmaidens or goatskins needed. His timing is perfect; all we need to do is wait.

8. Is there something you are tempted to "help" God with today? Spend some time with Him and ask Him to give you the faith to trust Him and to wait for His timing instead of trying to go ahead without Him.