

Daughters Who Speak Out

What's It All About?

Every Thursday, Malachi and his friends hung out at the park. Every group at the park had a spot. The little kids were at the playground, the older kids were at the basketball hoops. Malachi and his friends were by the lake. And then there was Ruth. She was always sitting in the grass writing in a journal. Many times, Malachi and his friends yelled at her to go home and stop staring at them. No one ever really spoke to her.

On this one Thursday, Malachi caught her glance, and when he didn't look away, she got up and started walking

toward him. Malachi wasn't sure what would happen, so he just kept staring as she walked up to him.

"What do you want?" Malachi's friend, Micah yelled.

"Micah," Ruth said, "you're supposed to resemble the Lord."

Then Ruth turned to Malachi's other friend Matthew and said, "You're supposed to be the gift of God. And Malachi, you are supposed to be God's messenger, an angel. You all should know what your names mean, what your parents thought of you when you were born. All your names come from the Bible. You're not living up to who you are meant to be."

"Why are you so worried about our names, Ruth?" Malachi said. "Who are you supposed to be?"

"A friend," said Ruth. Then she walked away, back to her spot in the grass.

Malachi was intrigued. Ruth had caught his attention. That night he went online to research his name and the role the prophet Malachi had in the Bible.

What do you think of Ruth? Do you feel she displayed empowerment in her actions by speaking up to Malachi and his friends? In defending herself, did she also inspire them to learn from the Word of God? Did she give you something to think about?



Learning From God

God does not discriminate between men and women when it comes to spreading the Gospel. It is the duty of both men and women to contribute to the Kingdom, glorify the Lord, and spread His Word through prophesying to others. We are all God's children.

Luke 2:36–38; Acts 2:16–21; 21:8–9, NIV—There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very

moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Acts 2:16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

21:8 Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. 9 He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

What I Have Learned

Review today's Bible passage. Read the phrases below and then write which verse the phrases are from on the line provided.

	heavens above and signs on the earth below"
2.	"Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God"
3.	"She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying"

"Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days"

darkness and the moon to blood"

Keep In Mind

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams" (Acts 2:17, NIV).

Choosing What's Best

In today's story, Ruth was empowered to speak up to Malachi and his friends. She wanted them to be mindful of their current behavior, while challenging them to acknowledge and be accountable for what they were meant to be. Take a moment to write down how you see yourself. Who are you? What are you meant to be? Do you feel empowered (i.e., confident) to spread God's Word? Why or why not?

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"Coming up to them at that she gave thanks to God"	Third response were experienced and the first state of the first state
"She never left the temple night and day, fasting and praying"	
"The sun will be turned to he moon to blood"	

Doing My Part

Be empowered this week to be God's messenger. Acknowledge the contributions of men and especially women who are faithfully serving God. Speak up and tell them their work makes a difference and that they are appreciated. Let them know that what they are doing is important and a great example for you and all those that see them. As you pray to God this week, give thanks for those who serve Him, especially those around you.