



James Tissot – “Ruth Returns from the Field of Boaz”

Garrison COG - June 28, 2020

MESSAGE: “THE POWER OF PERSONAL INTEGRITY”. JUDGES 21:25 & RUTH 3:11, 18

It is my belief that the story of Ruth takes place around the year 1160 BC. This would have been during the Abimelech conspiracy of chapter 9. In Judges 10:6 it states that the Israelites began to serve the gods of the Philistines, Ammonites and Moabites.

This story of Ruth and Boaz seems to fit this period of Judges. Economics and political realities drove the tribal alliance of Israel apart. Israel was unravelling. Gideon had been the high-point but had failed to grasp the opportunity and establish a centralized government and national identity.

The migration of Elimelech, his wife Naomi and his 2 sons Mahlon & Chilion make sense in this world. He moved to Moab, which had the most stable government in the area. He must have been an artisan or merchant for he was able to obtain brides for his sons from established families in Moab.

The sudden deaths of Elimelech and his sons left Naomi and her daughters-in-law without support. She determined to return to Bethlehem in Judah.



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Judges 21:25 – In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

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In-teg-ri-ty (ĩn-těg'řĩ-tē) n.

1. Steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code: a leader of great integrity.
2. The state of being unimpaired; soundness: *The building's integrity remained intact following the mild earthquake.*
3. The quality or condition of being whole or undivided; completeness: *replaced a lost book to restore the integrity of his collection.*

[Middle English integrite, from Old French, from Latin integritās, soundness, from integer, whole, complete; see **tag-** in **Indo-European roots**.]

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"Ruth and Boaz"
Thomas Matthews
Rooke 1875-6

MESSAGE: "THE POWER OF PERSONAL INTEGRITY". JUDGES 21:25 & RUTH 3:11, 18

Ruth 3:11-18

11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. 12 "Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you — good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."

14 So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."

15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six *ephahs* of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city. 16 So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

17 And she said, "These six *ephahs* of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.' "

18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."



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In the chaotic world that followed the collapse of the Bronze Age, with its continual political conflicts, mercenary soldiers became big business. It appears that the northern tribes focused on this trade. Judah, the leading southern tribe focused primarily on livestock production and some agriculture. East of the Jordan, trade and livestock dominated the economy.

It is natural for weaker states to seek out powerful partners politically. For the tribes east of the Jordan, the powerful nations in their sphere were the Moabites and Ammonites until the time of Jephthah. In the west the Philistines dominated until the time of Samson [younger contemporary of Jephthah]. The story of Ruth and Boaz fits well within this time period. The migration of Elimelech, his wife Naomi and his 2 sons Mahlon & Chilion make sense in this world. He moved to Moab, which has at the time the most stable government in the area, to provide a stable income and safe environment. He must have been an artisan or merchant for he was able to obtain brides for his sons from established families in Moab.

Isaiah 5:18-24

MESSAGE: "THE POWER OF PERSONAL INTEGRITY". JUDGES 21:25 & RUTH 3:11, 18

Isaiah 5:18-25

18 Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, And sin as if with a cart rope; 19 That say, "Let Him make speed *and* hasten His work, That we may see *it*; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, That we may know *it*."

20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

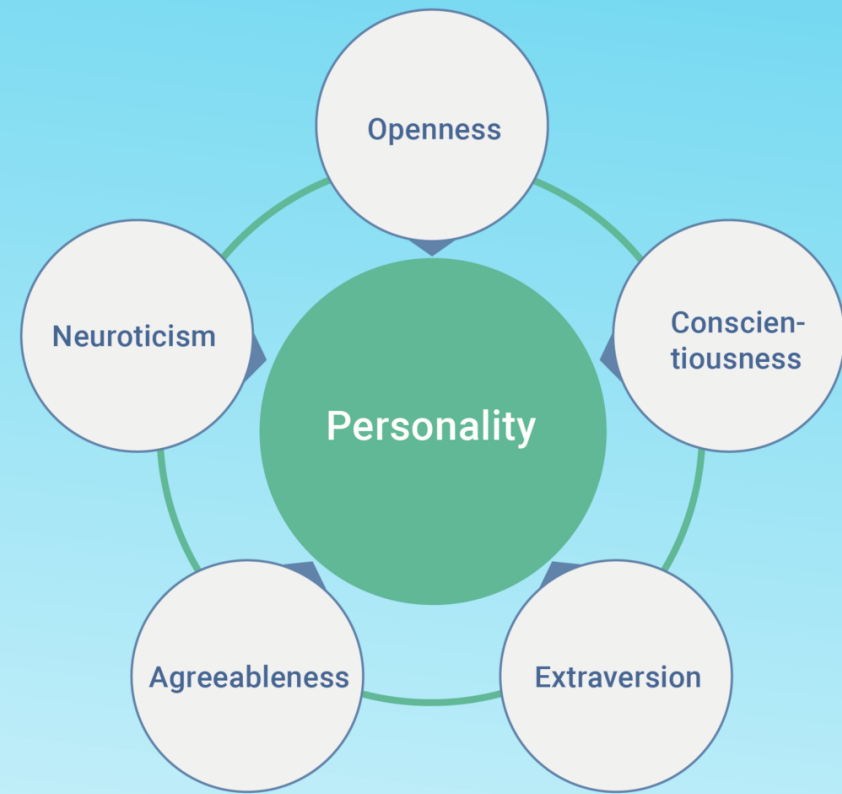
21 Woe to *those who are* wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!

22 Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, 23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man!

24 Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.



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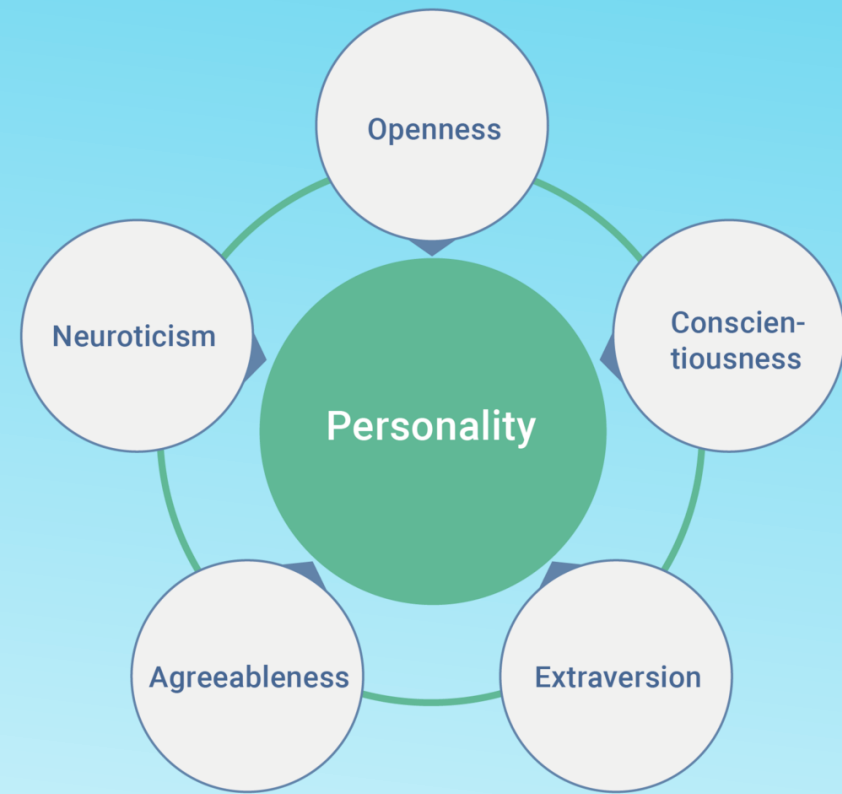


5 Personality Traits Model – Proposed in 1961 by Ernest Tupes and Raymond Christal based on work done in Air Force Personnel Labs in the 1950s. Their research was picked up and popularized by J. M. Digman in 1990.

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The 5 Personality Traits Model has become the standard in developing pre-employment surveys used to weed out potential problem candidates. The main issue for employers is “integrity” – The basic assumption is that people who lack personal integrity complain the most about those who breaches in integrity and call the loudest for serious consequences for those who fail in their integrity. It is known as “projection”. People who lack integrity generally suffer in all aspects of the 5 personality traits. We generally think of integrity in terms of honesty. But it also includes a “whole” consistent way of life. People driven by just honesty can be cruel. People just driven by fidelity can be loyal to a fault. Etc.



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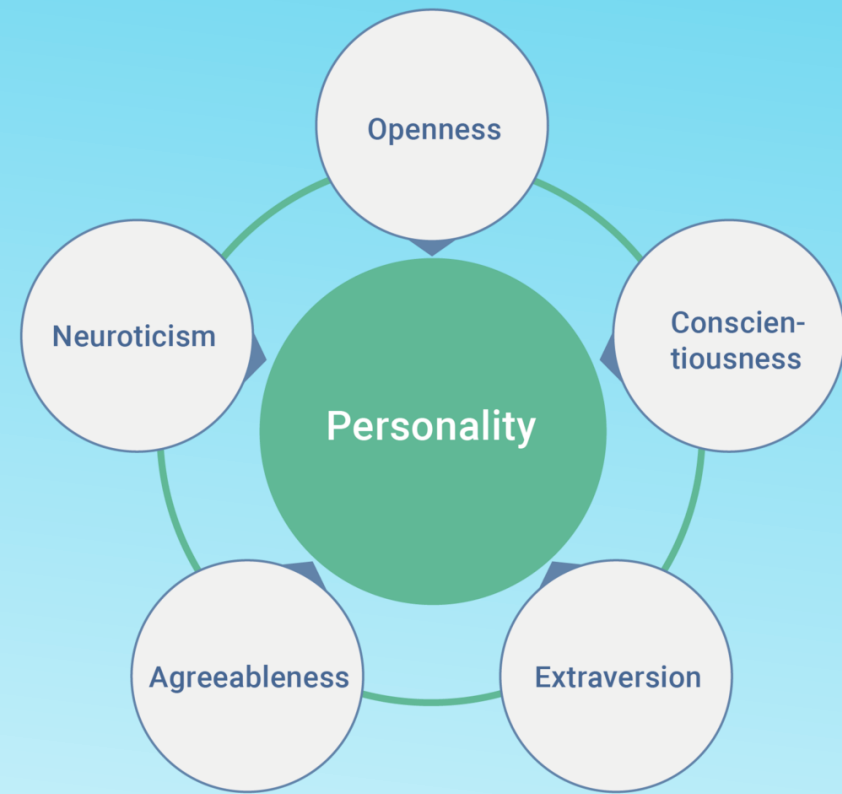
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Ruth, Mahlon’s wife, refused to return to her parents and committed herself to Naomi and the God of Israel.

Ruth makes a courageous decision of faith. It begins with a commitment to Naomi and leads to a commitment to God. The elements of her integrity were already there. In fact if we look as her sister-in-law Orpah she also had the right instincts and elements necessary to develop integrity, but she chose to go back. Faith and Courage was something she could not envision.

2 Peter 1:5-11



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2 Peter 1:5-11

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,

7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



One of the most iconic paintings of Boaz and Ruth was painted by German painter Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, "Ruth im Feld des Boaz" painted in 1828. He was a part of the "Nazarene movement that had a great deal of impact on German art.

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Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld was a German artist. When he joined a movement that would have a dramatic impact on German artwork of the 19th century. It was a reaction to the "Romantic realism" movement. It wished to re-establish a sense of spirituality in artwork. A large group of artists from Germany moved to Rome to live in an old monastery and study early Renaissance and late Medieval art. The movement was called the Nazarene Movement and lasted for 5 years. However, the artists returned to Germany and many, including Carolsfeld, became teachers and curators. Their influence on German art was dramatic during the formative years of the mid-1800s. Notice the "too perfect" nature of the scene.

Integrity is lived in real life, Paul in 2 Corinthians 6 speaks about what it means to live out integrity in a world that is not perfect.



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In contrast Thomas Matthew Rooke spent his whole life working at practical art so he could paint on the side.

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Ruth and Naomi the series by Thomas Matthew Rooke [1842-1942]



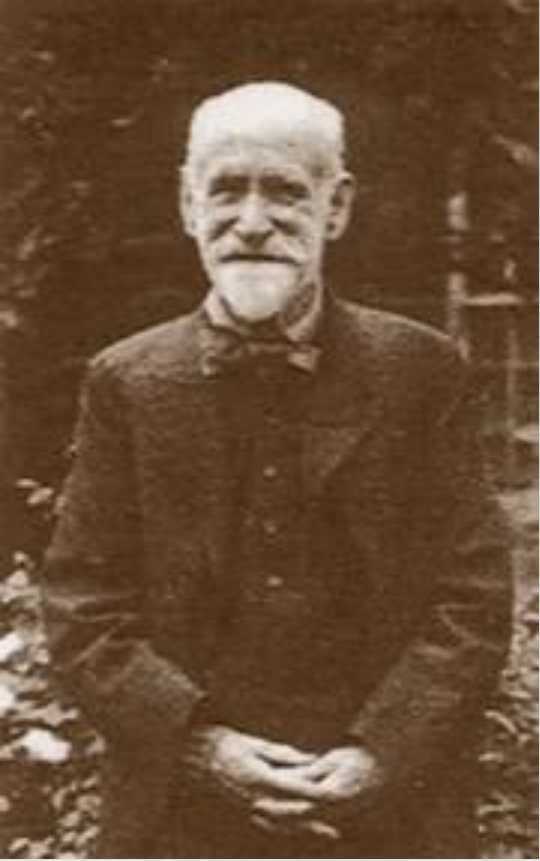
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Isaiah 59:9-17

9 Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, *but* we walk in blackness! 10 We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we *had* no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. 11 We all growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; We look for justice, but *there is* none; For salvation, *but* it is far from us. 12 For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions *are* with us, And as *for* our iniquities, we know them: 13 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. 14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. 15 So truth fails, And he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw *it*, and it displeased Him That *there was* no justice.

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Isaiah 59:9-17

16 He saw that *there* was no man, And wondered that *there* was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. 17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

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Naomi recognized in Boaz a man of integrity. A man who held all aspects of integrity complete unity.

The characteristics of Integrity are:

- **Honesty** – truth lived out in life
- **Humility** – honesty applied to ourselves.
- **Fidelity** – humility in our commitments
- **Perspective** – honesty and humility applied to our opinions
- **Self-control** – fidelity and perspective applied to our actions.
- **Endurance** – self-control practiced in life.
- **Fairness** – applying these characteristic even-handedly with others



Ruth gleaning in the fields of Boaz by James Tissot

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Salad Dressings are interesting. Most are made of oils, fats and vinegar with a few dry and wet ingredients added. Oil and vinegar quickly separate in suspension unless they are homogenized or held together with a binding agent such as egg, starch or a protein.

Integrity quickly separates out into its individual components without the binding forces of Faith and Courage.

It was the Faith and Courage of Ruth and Boaz acting in Integrity that transformed their world.



Ruth gleaning in the fields of Boaz by James Tissot