

Malcolm's Monday Musings : 14 June 2021

Greetings.

This is my 'Monday Musings' email.

1. Two weeks ago, on 31st May, I attached a document ('All things ... for good') which offered some thoughts on the providence of God in the lives of His people.

Footnotes 29 and 45 of that document each traced 'a chain of ten links' which summarised the key events in the lives of two Bible characters – of Joseph and Esther respectively – through which God worked behind the scenes for their good and for the good of many others.

Building on this approach, this week I am attaching a document which traces another all-important ten-linked chain of divine providence ... [this time in the life of 'Ruth the Moabitess'](#).

By way of 'tasters', here are three brief extracts:

(i) 'As far as the biblical record goes, from the time we first meet her properly on the road from Moab to Bethlehem to the moment when she steps down from the stage with the birth of Obed, everything took place in little more than twelve months or so. But, given the crucial role which Ruth played then, *this brief period must rank as one of the most important years in the whole of Bible history*'.

(ii) 'Ruth has come a long way; from the *field* of Boaz, to the *feet* of Boaz, and, now, to the *family* of Boaz; from want to wealth; from poverty to plenty'.

(iii) 'We are told nothing of Ruth's physical attributes and appearance. As far as the record goes, there is no evidence that she could match the good looks (both in face and in figure) of a Rachel, of an Abigail, of a Bathsheba, or of an Esther. But we can say that Ruth possessed something of far greater value and importance than mere physical beauty; *she possessed beauty of character*'.

2. Another 'Ruth'. Today, 14th of June, marks the anniversary of the death in 2007 of Ruth Bell Graham, the wife of Billy Graham. I attach one of her many poems, 'There are no depths' (quoted from Ruth Bell Graham, '*Sitting by my Laughing Fire*', page 111).

Read, digest and enjoy.

3. Separately, due to a combination of circumstances, I will be taking a break for two weeks.

God willing, 'normal service will be resumed' on **Monday, 5th July**.

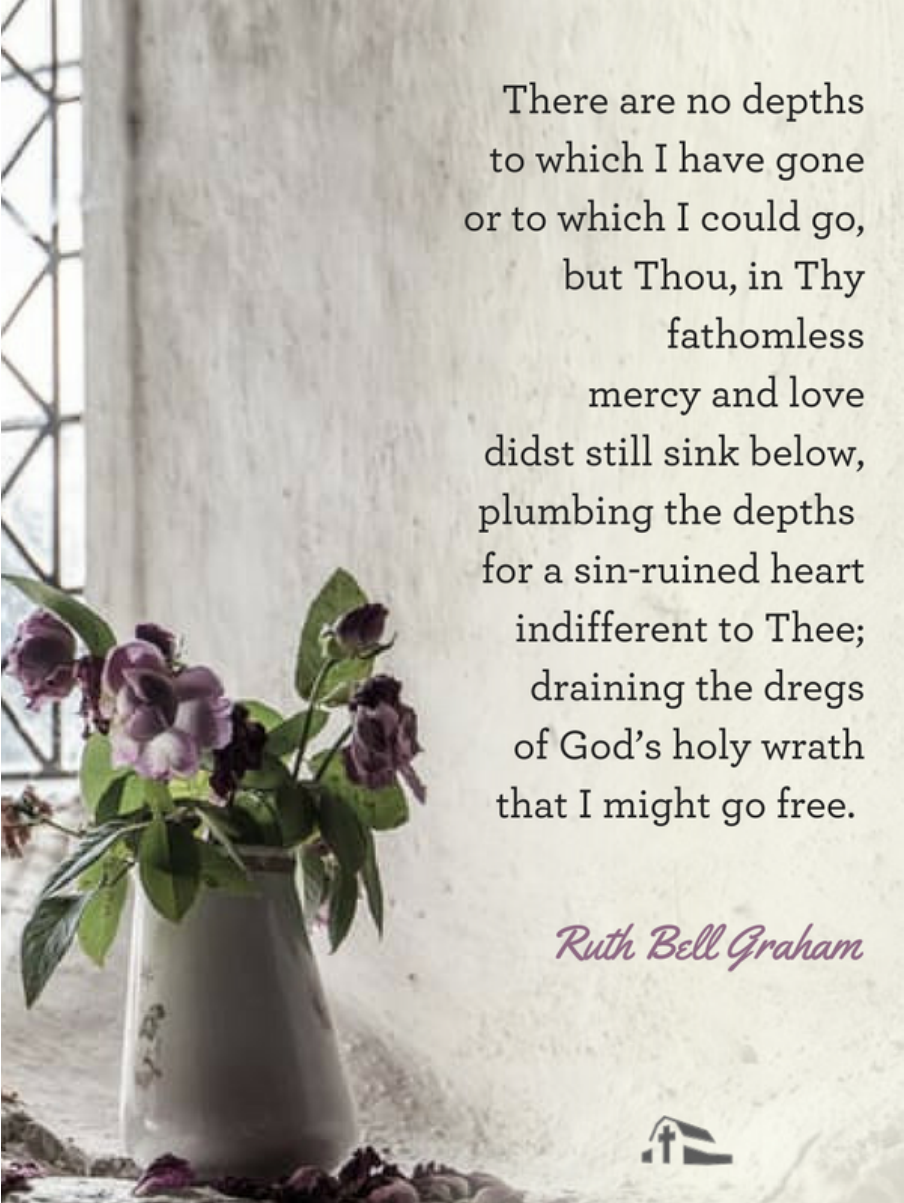
Yours in our Lord Jesus,

Malcolm

Scripture.

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me!
For my soul trusts in you;
And in the shadow of your wings I will make my refuge,
Until these calamities have passed by.
I will cry out to God Most High,
To God who performs all things for me.
... I will praise you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing to you among the nations.
For your mercy reaches unto the heavens,
And your truth unto the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
Let your glory be above all the earth.

Psalm 57. 1-2, 9-11 (*The New King James Version*.)



There are no depths
to which I have gone
or to which I could go,
but Thou, in Thy
fathomless
mercy and love
didst still sink below,
plumbing the depths
for a sin-ruined heart
indifferent to Thee;
draining the dregs
of God's holy wrath
that I might go free.

Ruth Bell Graham

