

Transforming Daily
“ . . . *I will perform the duty . . .* ”
Ruth 3:13

Performance is where the “rubber meets the road” in life. “Talk is cheap, put your money where your mouth is,” is an old colloquialism that emphasizes the point. In this verse (13), that is precisely what Boaz was doing. Not only did he pledge to act as the near kinsman, he was going to search out the nearer kinsman for Ruth to make sure everything was on the up-and-up. That’s what performing one’s duty is all about, accepting responsibility and then being willing to be held accountable for it.

My dad used to say, “Should a, could a, would a never did.” He also used to say, “You can do wonders and eat rotten cucumbers,” (don’t know exactly what all that meant, but it definitely meant that he wanted to see action in the matter, not just hear words) when we bragged and boasted about how we were going to do this and do that. Another little word of instruction from my father was, “Don’t sweat the small stuff, do what you know is right, and the rest will take care of itself.” After 20 years in the military, my dad was big on duty and responsibility.

Most folks today don’t want any responsibility and they certainly will not be held accountable for their actions let alone anyone else’s. I’m convinced that it is probably the single reason for the family melt down. There is something inherently healthy for an individual to have to stand their post, or their watch, and be responsible for what goes on during that period of time; and it just as important for them to have to answer for all that goes on their watch (in our day an time, a referee at a basketball game can’t even call out a players number).

Living for Jesus is not a right, it is a privilege offered to those who believe through his shed blood. However, living for Jesus, while a privilege, carries with it certain responsibilities and obligations (not to be saved, but after having been saved). Our first responsibility is to God, then to our families, then to other believers in Christ, then to the lost, and then finally to ourselves. The question is one of accountability. We will be made to account for our service and ministry before Christ one day, so it would be wise to willfully and willingly stand accountable for our service and ministry today.

How is your performance before Christ? Are you taking responsibility for your actions? Are you willfully and willingly allowing yourself to be held accountable? What is your response to God and His Word regarding service and ministry for His name’s sake? Is your response to God having been called upon and commissioned to serve, “I will perform the duty?”