

The angels on high brought good tidings of great joy. You, too, have brought a message of hope, faith, and love. We would like to honor you for your many years of service as you have shared the lessons of our five heroines with those who came seeking tidings of great joy.

The stories of our five chosen heroines are often told, but each time brings a new thought or new insight into the motives which prompted them to be the fairest among thousands.

Adah's happiness at the return of her father was quickly cast down. However, she was determined to be faithful to her father's vow and died with honor, her eyes upraised to the noonday sun. Weep not for Adah, but envision an innocent daughter who perished in the light with glory in her soul.

The crises in Ruth's life came when she was faced with a difficult parting of the ways. She chose to follow Naomi into poverty because she loved her and her God. Ruth sought refuge with the followers of Jehovah and was rewarded for her faith and humility.

Esther, noble queen, loved life, loved her king, and loved her people. When she was told of the cruel edict which would mean the end of the chosen people, she prepared to humble herself before the king. Her courage and tact in the face of peril are a memorable lesson.

Martha believed that Jesus had power beyond the grave. The Babe of Bethlehem had become a symbol of life eternal. Martha's story has taught us to raise our hands in faith and doubt not. We must let the Lord of life become the greatest power in our lives.

One of the gifts which the Babe in the manger received was a casket of Myrrh. It foretold coming trials and death. These, too, were the fate of the lady we call Electa. Charity, hospitality, and benevolence were her inspiration, but death and submission to the wrongs of persecution were her fate.

Take my love, my God, I pour
at Thy feet its treasured store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

God sent his only begotten Son into our lives to give us a message of life eternal. We were not promised a path free of stones and pitfalls, but we have been given a glimpse of a greater glory to come.

Each time you have told the story of one of our heroines, you have helped each of us to renew our vow to follow the Star to that ultimate glory.