

Ruth

This story is taken from the Biblical book of Ruth. Ruth, a foreigner from Moab, is Naomi's daughter-in-law. Both women are widows. Here she is depicted gleaning in the fields to feed Naomi and herself, since there is no other form of support for them. Boaz, who owns the field is attracted to Ruth and eventually marries her.

Rebekah

In the book of Genesis we are told that Abraham, concerned that his son Isaac might marry a Caananite woman, sends a servant to Abraham's birthplace to find a wife for him. When the servant arrives in that country he meets Rebekah at the well. She shows herself to be kind and gracious towards the traveller. The servant then sees that perhaps the Lord has chosen her to be the bride, so he asks her family and they accept. (So does Rebekah, so that's just as well.) Here she is journeying with Abraham's servant to the family's home in Canaan. She has not met Isaac but believing this marriage to be the Lord's will goes forth with confidence and joy.

Susanna

A story from the Apocrypha : Susanna, an upright Jewish wife, goes to bathe privately in the garden. Two men, elders of the community, are infatuated with her and hide themselves in the garden before the gates are locked. They endeavour to seduce her and when she refuses to bow to their will they denounce her as an adulterous woman. The penalty for adultery was death. As she was being led to execution a young man, Daniel, called the judgement into question and exposed the elders' lies. The false witnesses were then put to death. Our statue shows Susanna preparing to bathe.