

"Love, Loyalty and Redemption"

RUTH LESSON 5

*"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."
Revelation 2:10*

DAY #1 Read chapter 2:20-23

- 1) In verse 20, what kind of change is there in Naomi?

- 2) What caused her change?

- 3) What did she realize, remember once she stopped focusing on herself and her situation and turned her focus back on the Lord?

- 3) Has there been a time in your Christian life when you got so wrapped up in yourself and the situation you were in that you were temporarily blinded to the solution God had placed before you? What was the solution and how did God finally draw your attention to it?

So often the answer to a dilemma we are facing is right before us. But because our eyes are on ourselves and the trial we're in we miss it. Had Naomi kept her eyes on the Lord and her trust in Him instead of throwing herself a pity party, *perhaps* she would have remembered Boaz sooner. But God... God is God, and He does what He does best – love on and provide for His kids! Naomi recognized and received the blessings of God and at that moment was able to see clearly the solution to their situation that God had provided in Boaz.

- 4) According to verse 21, what is it that Boaz told Ruth to do and for how long?

- 5) Look up H1692 (keep fast, or stay close)
 - a) As believers what are we called to do according to John 15:4-10?

 - b) How long are we to abide in Christ according to 1 John 2:28?

- 6) Who was she suppose to stay close to according to verse 21?
Look up H5288 (young men)

- 7) What good and Godly council does Naomi give Ruth in verse 22?
 - a) Why is it important for us to stay in God's field, being surrounded with other saints? (use scripture to support your thoughts)

- 8) What part of Boaz command did Ruth obey according to verse 23?

Go before the Lord and ask that He reveal to you any areas in you life where you are not being **completely** obedient to what He has asked of you. Perhaps you have submitted to you your husband in everything **except**... or maybe you trust the Lord to care for your kids in everything **but**.... The Lord wants **total** submission, **total** obedience. May this "**total**" be the desire of your heart. God loves you and is able and willing to grant you this desire, if you will simply submit and allow Him to do the work that needs to be done.

DAY #2 Read chapter 3:1-3

- 1) What is Naomi's number one concern?

What was Naomi's number one concern in chapter 1:9?

Naomi has come full circle. In Chapter one we saw how she set her eyes upon the Lord when she heard that He had "visited His people by giving them bread" (Ruth 1:6) Her heart's desire was for the Lord to "deal kindly" with or show "loyal love" to Ruth and Orpah. Somewhere between Moab and Bethlehem it seems that desire grew faint. Naomi had allowed sin, whether it was doubt, fear or something else, to creep in pulling her eyes off of the Lord and onto herself. Through this simple act of God once again providing bread for their needs, Naomi was pulled out of her self-pity and brought back to a place of rejoicing and trusting in the Lord once again reminded of the desire she once had to see God's love poured out upon Ruth granting her "rest in the arms of her husband".

- 2) Reflect on this spiritual journey that Naomi has taken. Where are you, spiritually speaking, right now?
- 3) Are you allowing God to fill you up with "spiritual bread" so that you can serve others, or are you feasting on life's "smorgasbord" for self gratification?
- 4) What is it that Naomi is desiring for Ruth in verse 1?

Well – H3190

- a) Are you concerned more with your own happiness or the happiness of others?
- b) What does Romans 12:9-13 say about this?
- 5) According to verse 2, what was Boaz going to be doing and where was he doing it?
- a) (winnowing) H2219
- b) (threshing floor) H1637

The threshing floor was basically a dirt or stone floor used for the trampling of grain. This “threshing” or trampling of the grain was done by animals treading on the grain in order to break the husk and separate it from the grain within. It was then “winnowed” or tossed into the air. The evening sea breeze (which was common in Palestine) would carry the chaff off while the grain, by its own weight would fall to the ground, be gathered and later stored.

- 6) Read Luke 3:15-17 Who is John the Baptist referring to in this section and what is he describing?

- 7) What three things did Naomi tell Ruth to do before she went to the threshing floor?

When we come to the Lord, we too need to be washed – cleansed of our sins (Isaiah 1:18), having been anointed by God (1Cor. 1:21) and clothed in the garments of the “new man” who is in Christ Jesus (Colossians 3:12-15). Spend some time with Jesus, meditating on these verses.

DAY #3 Read chapter 3:3-7

Naomi’s desire was to present Ruth acceptable to Boaz.

- 1) What happens to the one who comes to the Lord in an unacceptable manner?
Matthew 22:1-13

- 2) When was she *not* to do according to verse 3?

- 3) What was she to do next?

- 4) What was she to wait for?

- 5) What did she do according to verses 6-7

“Ruth was to remove the edge of Boaz’s outer garment from his feet and lie down by his uncovered feet. Touching and holding his feet was an act of submission. This was a daring and dramatic action that would call for a decision on his part to be her protector, and likely, her husband.” The Nelson Study Bible

- 6) How are we to approach the Lord?

Isaiah 57:15

James 4:10

1Peter 5:6-7

Matthew 6:6

- 7) How are we to respond to our Protector, our Groom, our Savior?

Revelation 1:17

Psalm 8:4-6

John 11:32

John 12:3

What a beautiful picture of coming to our Lord in humble solitude, laying down at His feet and quietly waiting to hear what it is He would have us do. What a wonderful place to end our lesson today, at the feet of Jesus!

DAY #4 Read chapter 3:8-9

- 1) What was Boaz’s response to finding Ruth at his feet according to verse 8?

Startled (H2729)

- 2) What did he do once he realized there was something at his feet?

Turned (H3943)

My thought on this is that at the terrifying thought of something crawling up against his bare feet, he instinctively reached down to lay hold of whatever it was (me personally, I would have jumped up and out of bed after waking everyone in the house up with a blood curdling scream!). Once realizing it wasn't a "what", but a "her" he quickly turned himself for the sake of modesty and integrity.

- 3) Once he realized it was a "her", what did Boaz do?
- 4) What was Ruth's response?
- 5) What did Ruth ask Boaz to do and why?
- 6) close relative H1350
- 7) Who is our Redeemer?
1Peter 1:18-19
- 8) Spend some time here with Ruth's response. Write a prayer to the Lord, your Redeemer, from *you*, His maidservant.

DAY #5 Read chapter 3:10-15

- 1) What was Boaz response to Ruth and her proposal according to verse 10?

Ruth had laid herself on the line here. She risked everything by coming to Boaz at night and lying at his feet. This act could have been construed as an act of harlotry. Ruth's previous reputation spoke volumes as to her current intent.

- 2) What was one of his reasons for not hesitating in granting her request according to verse 11?
- 3) Read Proverbs 31:10-31. According to this passage (*God's definition*), what kind of a woman did the whole town, including Boaz, recognize Ruth as?

CHALLENGE: As Christian women, what is our character to be according to God's standards? Use scripture to support your answer.

- 4) There lies before Ruth and Boaz a small obstacle, what is it? (verse 12)
- 5) What was Boaz's attitude toward this? (verse 13)
- 6) When God allows bumps and potholes on the path He has placed your feet upon, how do you handle them? (i.e. trip over them, choose another path around them)
- 7) How are we suppose to handle them?

Ps. 37:7

Ps. 116:7-8

Matthew 11:28-30

1Peter 5:6-7

Boaz knew what he needed to be done, and trusted that it would turn out the way God wanted it. He lost no sleep in the matter and instructed Ruth to do the same.

- 8) What did Ruth do in response to what Boaz said?

- 9) Do you fully trust in Jesus, you Redeemer? When He says wait, do you wait? When He says rest, do you really rest? When He says go, do you go?

- 10) What was Boaz's concern in verse 14? What does this say of his character?

- 11) What does he do for her according to verse 15?

Compare what he did in these 2 verses with how husbands are to treat their wives.
Ephesians 5:25-28

Boaz not only makes sure she leaves before anyone else is awake to protect her from accusation, he also blesses her with an abundance of grain. It is my opinion that this grain also could have spared her reputation, stopping any gossip that may have erupted had she been seen leaving the fields of Boaz at dawn's first light *with out* grain.

- 12) How did Ruth respond to all of this according to the end of verse 15?

- 13) How are we as wives, or future wives, to respond to our husbands?
Ephesians 5:22-24

- 14) In closing this week, meditate on this; how are we, as the Bride of Christ to respond to our Lord? Prayerfully consider and search the Scripture before you answer.

May you rest in the Redemption which our Lord Jesus Christ provided for you on the cross at Calvary. He loves you, He has redeemed you and, oh, how He desires your love and loyalty to Him above all else.