

Ruth

SLIDE 1 8. Ruth

Review background- God promised to bless Abraham's descendants with blessings, blessing the whole world through Jesus, and the land of Israel. Joshua and Caleb in the book of Joshua led the Israelites into the land but they did not kill off all the wicked people as God told them. God had warned them, "When I bless you don't forget me". Well in Judges 'each person did what was right in their own eyes'. Today's character study is during this time period of the Judges.

Preview- *This is a story of hard times, not walking by faith but by circumstances, fears or feelings, consequences of disobedience, family, commitment, the goodness of God and a love story which also is a picture story of how God treats us.*

SLIDE 2 *There was a famine in the land of Israel so Elimelech and Naomi run to Moab with their 2 sons, they end up marrying Moabite women (known for their beauty). It was against God's law to marry non-believers, and still is for you too. God had given them the land, they were not to leave it, but to possess it. Naomi's husband died, and her 2 sons.*

- They left God's will by looking at the circumstances of famine or by responding by their feelings or fears instead of trusting God.
- We are called to walk by faith not by sight. We need to learn to trust God and do His will to experience His best or else there are consequences to our sin.

SLIDE 3 *So Naomi tells her daughters-in-law to go back to their families, she is going back to Israel because she heard God had blessed them with bread. She told her 2 daughters-in-law to go back to their families, but Ruth pleads with her to let her go with her.*

Ruth 1:16-17 But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

- This is a commitment unto death, like marriage and like our commitment to God should be, Ruth was placing her faith in God to follow Naomi.
- Naomi agrees. When they arrive in Bethlehem everyone is excited to see Naomi, which means pleasantness, she said call me Mara (bitter) because the Almighty

has dealt bitterly with me.

SLIDE 4 Ruth 2:1-3 Now there was a wealthy and influential man in Bethlehem named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech. One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it." Naomi replied, "All right, my daughter, go ahead." So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech.

- Gleaning was the way the poor or widows were provided for, after the harvest they could go behind the harvesters and pick up any remains.
- It happened she found herself in a relative's field. "And as it happened". This is called the sovereignty of God or the providence of God, not luck, fate or karma. This where God leads us to His will, so He can bless us so we can experience God's best.

SLIDE 5 4-6 While she was there, Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters. "The LORD be with you!" he said. "The LORD bless you!" the harvesters replied. Then Boaz asked his foreman, "Who is that young woman over there? Who does she belong to?" And the foreman replied, "She is the young woman from Moab who came back with Naomi.

- Boaz inquired about Ruth, he was interested.

Boaz tells Ruth to not glean in any other field but follow his workers (provider). He also told the men not to touch her (protector). She bowed before Boaz and said why have I found favor in your eyes since I am a foreigner?

SLIDE 6 2:11-12 "Yes, I know," Boaz replied. "But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. May the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done."

- So Boaz had inquired further from others about her, so he knew he was related to her Father.

So Ruth comes back with a lot of grain to give to Naomi, she tells whose field she gleaned in, so she instructs Ruth on what to do next. To wash, change clothes and anoint herself with oil (like perfume in some instances) go to the barn where he will be sleeping because of the harvest, take the covers off his feet and lay at his feet, when he wakes he will know what to do. He would become her **Kinsman redeemer- he would marry her and buy back the land that was lost when her father-in-law sold it and**

left for Moab. So Boaz ends up marrying Ruth, buying back her land (inheritance) and then they had a child.

Their child is in the lineage of Jesus. Their son Obed begot Jesse, Jesse begot David (King) and Jesus came in the line of David of the tribe of Judah. In the lineage of Jesus was also Tamar, who committed incest, Ruth, a Moabite gentile cursed by God (grace offered to whomever will come), they were cursed by God for mistreating Israel and tricking them into sin, and a prostitute named Rahab.

SLIDE 7 APPLY IT

What God is like: You **family** may be messed up or dysfunctional, but in the lineage of Jesus was a cursed Gentile, incest and a prostitute, but God is in the grace, mercy, forgiveness and restoration business. You can be the beginning of a new era in your family line for Jesus took the curse of sin upon Himself and offers you His righteousness(imputed righteousness). Perfect in God's eyes.

You need to learn to trust God and obey His will for your life to experience His best or else you will make bad choices and reap the consequences.

Making new memories in the will of God is part of your healing- it all starts with God. To experience His best you need to commit your ways to Him. If you were to **surrender to God** like Ruth did, you could experience God's best. (This is separate to getting saved)

Ruth 1:16-17 Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

- Surrender is total commitment to God- this is where you experience God's best, the abundant life or a life that satisfies. You can't out give God, whatever you give up for Him He will give you back more.
- Surrender and making new memories in the will of God are 2 of the 5 things it takes for you to heal completely from your trauma, the first is to put your faith in Jesus. Let me tell you how.

SLIDE 8 Transition to the gospel- God is in the business of offering His grace- unmerited unearned favor, He wants to be your Kinsman redeemer- He wants to buy you back from the penalty of your sin and give you an inheritance. He does that through what Jesus did on the cross.

Paid the penalty for your sin by dying on a cross, but He also rose from the dead.

For you to receive God's grace and get saved or right with God you must

Realize you have sinned- all have sinned

Believe that Jesus died in your place and took the penalty for your sin.

Repent- change your mind about your sins and agree with God that you are wrong.

Are you ready to receive God's grace and forgiveness, He offers it to whomever will come to Him by His way.

Do you **believe** Jesus paid the penalty for your sin and died in your place?

Are you ready to **repent**- change your mind about your sins and turn to God to save you? Bow you head and close your eyes: Ready to receive God's grace or favor? If so raise your hand to do this today.

SLIDE 9 Questions

1. Where did *Elimelech and Naomi* run to from Israel? Moab
2. What were the Moabite women known for? Their beauty
3. Their sons married Moabite women. What was wrong with this in God's eyes? They were not to marry unbelievers
4. What happened to Naomi's husband and sons? They died in Moab
5. Whose field did Ruth just happen to glean in? Boaz
6. What is gleaning? When the poor or widows would get to pick up what was left after the harvest
7. What did Naomi tell Ruth to do once she found out about that it was Boaz's field and his interest in her? Clean up, change clothes, anoint with oil (perfume) and go where Boaz sleeps and uncover his feet, he will know what to do.
8. What term was used for what Boaz would become? Kinsman redeemer
9. What does it mean to surrender to God? Total commitment to God, or to commit your ways to Him.