

Life lessons from Naomi and Ruth

Various Scriptures

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!" -Ruth 1:16-17

Trials and hardships in life are abound to happen to anyone of us at any given time. How do you handle these moments? It has been said, "Crisis reveals our character, often teaching us more about ourselves than we might learn in times of peace." In our study this week we learn from two women; how to adjust in difficult times, place our confidence in God, and value the commitment of true friendship.

Did you know?

*The stories of Naomi and Ruth took place during the period of _____?

Ruth 1:1; Judges 17:6

*Naomi's personal name means: "My _____"

*Naomi and her family were originally from _____. Ruth 1:1,19

*Ruth's personal names means: companion or _____.

*Ruth was a Moabite women, but do you know how Moab came into existence?

Genesis 19:30-38

*The god of the Moabites was Chemosh. "god of war" Numbers 21:29

*Ruth's story is also told in Matthew 1:5

Naomi's Plight Ruth 1

The people of Israel were going through a severe _____ in the land.

Naomi's husband Elimelech, took his entire family (wife and two sons) away from their home in Bethlehem, Judah and went to live in the country of Moab for a better life. While they were there _____ struck the family.

What happened to Naomi?

Her husband died: Ruth 1:3

Her son's married Moabite women: Deuteronomy 23:3-6; Ruth 1:4

Her son's died: Ruth 1:5

How do you think all of this effected her physically, spiritually and emotionally?

_____ Ruth 1:5 _____ Ruth 1:9 _____ Ruth 1:11-13

_____ Ruth 1:13 _____ by God Ruth 1:13

Turning point moment of decision:

Naomi hears that God has restored the crops in her homeland and she desires to go back home. Not only that, but she comes to the realization that in her age she is

unable to remarry and reproduce more son's for her daughter in law's so she gives them permission to return to their gods/lifestyles and start over. This in turn forces Orpah and Ruth to make a decision as well. Orpah whose name means _____ decides to go back, but Ruth the companion and friend _____ to Naomi and went forward. Ruth 1:14

As you reflect on the turning points and decisions you've made over the course of your life, what has been the main drive behind your choices? Knowing what you know now, would you make the same decision again?

Naomi's Plight continued: Ruth 1:19-21

Even though she made the decision to return home that still didn't completely remove the heartache and despair she was going through. Healing takes time. Quite often we want to rush the process in ourselves and others, or grow impatient with those who are suffering, but this story reminds us that it's okay to express how you feel. Naomi felt _____ about life and _____ by God. When she left she was happily married with children but now she was sad, widowed, poor and disoriented.

In considering Naomi's plight, what are some ways we can comfort those who are going through similar situations in life?

Ruth's Resolve Ruth 2-3

As we turn our attention to Ruth, notice her resolve and determination to not only stay with Naomi, but to embrace her people and serve her _____. Ruth 1:16-17

Notice the progression in Ruth's resolve:

Desire to work:

In order for Ruth to support Naomi she couldn't just lay around waiting on good luck, but she had to be intentional about working to sustain their needs. Ruth 2:2-3

*Picked up stalks of grain Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22

A good reputation:

Ruth did so well others began to take notice of her integrity and loyalty including a man named Boaz who happened to be a relative of the family. Ruth 2:6-7;11-12

*Hard worker

*Supported family

*Confidence in God

Favor from God:

As Boaz talked with Ruth he instructed her to stay in his field and work behind his workers. In doing so she was able to have _____ while she worked and provisions for herself and Naomi. Ruth 2:8-9; 14-20

In considering Ruth's resolve and the progression thereafter, what are some of the roadblocks you have experienced in your personal journey?

Naomi's encouragement:

These turn of events not only encouraged Ruth but it was just the boost of _____ and confidence that Naomi needed to hear about the goodness of God. Ruth 2:20-23

Can you see Naomi? As we come to chapter 3 she's now excited about the potential of finding Ruth a permanent home. So she tells Ruth that Boaz is a kinsman redeemer of the family and gives her clear directions. Ruth 3:1-4

*Take a _____

*Watch where he laid down

*Put on _____

*Uncover his feet

*Wear your _____

*lay down and listen for instructions

Some people hear instructions and say, why do I have to do all of that?

Notice Ruth's response: Ruth 3:5

Her resolve continues, she embraces Naomi's people and submits to the God of Israel. One thing leads to another, Boaz agrees to redeem the family of Elimelech but there was another relative who was closer. I imagine hearing that piece of information might have gotten to Ruth, for the Bible says she goes home and tells Naomi all the details, and in turn, she encourages Ruth more. Ruth 3:18

What is your response when you don't hear what you want to hear the first time? Do you get anxious or discouraged? Why or why not?

The Lord's Redemption Ruth 4

What does it mean to redeem? To pay a _____ in order to _____ the release of something or someone.

A kinsman redeemer could redeem:

*A family member sold into slavery; Leviticus 25:47-49

*Land which needed to sold under economic hardship; Leviticus 25:23-28

*The family name by virtue of a levirate marriage; Deuteronomy 25:5-10

Boaz gathers 10 witnesses and approaches the next of kin with the proposition to acquire the land and Ruth. Unfortunately he can't commit to the cause and tells Boaz to buy the land. In divine providence God was glorified in this redemption:

*Boaz and Ruth had a son name Obed, father of Jesse, grandfather of David Ruth 4:13

*Naomi's spirits were lifted Ruth 4:14-15

*Ruth added to the lineage of Christ Matthew 1:5

If God could redeem a Moabite woman, what does that say to you about your chances for redemption?

Just like Boaz redeemed the family of Naomi; so Jesus Christ is our redeemer today!

*We were slaves to sin; Romans 6:15-18

*Lost earthly possessions/privileges in the fall; Genesis 3:17-19

*Alienated by sin from God; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Have you been redeemed by Jesus Christ? Did you know He paid the price for our salvation through His death, burial and resurrection?

As you reflect on this study, what is the the greatest lesson learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“No human being is so bad as to be beyond redemption.”