

Bible Study - Naomi and Ruth

Written by Rev. Manson B. Johnson
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Religion

THE BIG IDEA: Faith causes true believers to exhibit the type of care that exemplifies favor they desire for themselves.

At the exact time that Christians personally decide to exercise the God-kind of faith God's providential care plan begins to perform and perfect its work toward them at the same time. Because God's covenant agreement is a promise from God, Divine favor will overtake the life of true believers during defining moments that stay with them for the rest of their lives. As partners, Naomi and Ruth were guided by God's favor because of their faith or trust God for a kinsman redeemer. Naomi and Ruth demonstrated their faith in God by taking risks with what they believed in their hearts. Naomi and Ruth teach us much about doing what we believe. Naomi and Ruth lived in the way of faith to win favor with Boaz, the kinsman redeemer.

I. The divine rule for engaging THE WINNING WALK THAT WINS FAVOR FROM GOD is by faith. By faith we move from:

PROMISE = God's covenant or agreement

PERSECUTION = a defining act of testing

PRACTICE = a demonstration of the God-kind of faith

PROSPERITY = a supply or sufficiency from God

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II. Ruth's sacrifice: the goal of desire; 1:15-18

A. The T.E.A.M. by Dr. John C. Maxwell

B. What team means; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Prosperity; v. 9

Purpose; v. 10a

Partnership; v. 10b-12a (influence/contribution)

Power; v. 12b

III. Recruiting the team players: the franchise team is set up (start up group)

A. The famine (1:1–2): An Israelite family (Elimelech; his wife,

Naomi; and their two sons) leave their home in Bethlehem to escape a famine and move to Moab.

IV. Reality sets in for the team: the team lineup changes

A. The funerals (1:3–5): Elimelech dies, and his sons marry Moabite

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women. Ten years later the sons die, and now Naomi and her daughters-in-law are widows.

B. The farewells (1:6–15)

1. Naomi's decision (1:6–7): Hearing that there is abundant food

in Bethlehem, Naomi determines to return to her homeland. Both her daughters-in-law begin the journey with her.

2. Naomi's despair (1:8–15): A bitter and broken Naomi gently

urges her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to return to Moab and begin new lives. Orpah does, but Ruth stays with Naomi.

C. The Faith (1:15-18)

V. Returning to Bethlehem

A. Frustrated but arriving in a fruitful season; (1:19-22)

B. Ruth's mission of "mercy" (eleos) ; 2:1-2

Mercy recognizes a need to be met and also grants the needed supply to meet the need as needed at the time needed and at the level that the supply is needed...therefore, the purpose of

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“Mercy” is to adequately meet needs as they arise.

C. Ruth meets Boaz

1. “The Boaz encounter”; vv. 3-13

The selection process; vv. 3-7

The satisfaction of providence; vv. 8-13

Boaz makes provides a way to prosper for Ruth; v. 8, 9

Ruth is humbled with her provisions; v. 10

Ruth recognizes favor standing in her face

Boaz is pleased with Ruth’s humbleness toward Naomi; v. 11,12

2. “The Boaz encourager”; vv. 14-17

His invitation to dine; v. 14, His instructions to the field workers; v. 15, 16, Ruth’s investment pays off; 17

D. Ruth and Naomi plan as partners; vv. 18-23

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1. Ruth supplies Naomi; v. 18 2. Naomi blesses Boaz; v. 19, 20 3. Ruth confides in and bonds with Naomi; vv. 21-23