

Ruth

Lesson 9

The King – Our Friend: A Closer Walk with Him

Introduction

The book of Ruth is the only Old Testament book that establishes King David as coming from the line of Judah. And therefore, we see this book as establishing the credentials of the rightful King. And yet, surprisingly it is in the context of a love story.

The King desires a relationship with us. He is the Kinsman-Redeemer.

Hebrews 1:5-18

John 15:12-17.

In the early chapters of the book of Ruth, Ruth begins to have a relationship with Boaz.

She met him. Ruth 2:1-7.

Boaz invites her to remain in his field. Ruth 2:8-13

He invited her to a meal with him and he provided her with protection. Ruth 2:14-15

This is a growing relationship.

In Ruth 3, the relationship deepens.

Ruth 3:6-11.

There is a picture here of our deepening relationship with the Lord.

First we come to know Who He is. We are in his fold by faith in Christ to salvation. We enjoy His provisions and protection. There is an opportunity to grow in our faith, but it involves going to the threshing floor to be with Him in a deeper way.

The typical threshing floor is described this way:

“The construction of the floor is very simple. A circular space, from thirty to fifty feet in diameter, is made level, if not naturally so, and the ground is smoothed off and beaten solid that the earth may not mingle with the grain in threshing. In time, the floors, especially on the mountains are covered with a tough, hard sward, the prettiest and often the only green plots about the village, and there the traveler delights to pitch his tent....” Fred Wight, Manners And Customs of Bible Lands.

There were three methods of threshing:

1. A flail was used for threshing small quantities of grain.
Ruth 2:17
2. A threshing instrument was used consisting of s two wooden planks joined together, about three feet wide and six feet long with rows of cut square holes

underneath and sharp stones or pieces of metal are driven into these. The threshing board is pulled by the oxen over the grain and the thresher sits or stands upon the instrument, with his goad in his hand to hurry up the animals.

3. Or the oxen were driven over the grain and their hooves would do the work of threshing the grain.

What does threshing accomplish?

The heavy sledges (or animals' hooves) as they are drawn over the layer of straw and ears, rub out the grain. This by its form or weight, sinks immediately through the straw and thus escapes being hurt. The straw on the surface is slowly broken and crushed into tiny pieces. Thus a double process goes on by means of this simple but effective treatment. Not only is the corn (or grain) threshed out, but the straw is at the same time prepared for cattle and camel fodder. Id.

The threshing floor was a place of refinement. Through this process the wheat or barley (the good grains) were drawn out and separated from the chaff and the straw.

Ruth going down to the threshing floor to meet Boaz and to place herself in submission to him is a picture of our process of growing in Christ. Growth in the Christian life involves submission and a winnowing process – a cleansing of the old life and my old selfish ambitions and ways.

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

“Deny” in the Greek has a strong meaning of “denying utterly, to disown.”

I Peter 4:1-2

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

II Peter 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless, we according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Philippians 3:7-10

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet, indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, begin conformed to His death.

Aspects of a Life of Surrender:

1. A growing relationship with Christ.
2. There are rewards waiting for us, when we enter into a life of submission.

Romans 8:17 – Joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him.

3. The rewards far outweigh the sufferings.
4. God rewards every act, no matter how slight from human perspective.
5. The Rewards are tailored to the Recipient.

Daniel 12:1.

6. The greatest Reward is Knowing Him as our Friend.

Hebrews 2:5-17

Ruth 3:8-11.

For Further Thought

How does the story of Ruth and Boaz picture for you the relationship that Christ has with His church?

What is the “chaff” that Paul leaves behind in his life that would get in the way of a deeper and growing relationship with Christ?