

Ruth 1:14-22 Rootwork

Wholehearted Determination in the Hands of a Redemptive God

- 1.** (Everyday) Before you begin your study time - spend time in prayer! Go through your “yesterday” and ask the Lord to reveal your heart! Prepare your heart and surrender your will to the Spirit of God! Allow Him to have full access by not withholding anything He wants to do in and then do through you!! Make a conscious effort to bow your will and your obedience to the Lord before you even dive in! This prepares your heart to hear and to heed everything He speaks to you!
- 2.** (Everyday) Then spend time in adoration and worship after you have cleansed your heart and before you dive into the scriptures!! Proclaiming who God is and adoring Him lifts our eyes up and keeps our focus on what really matters...putting God in His rightful place and putting us in ours! Remember, the enemy is going to try to keep you from being in the Word, he hates when we worship our God- Worship breaks his bondages over believers, so resist him and he will flee!!
- 3.** (If you didn't do this from last study) If you were at the “Digging Deeper Workshop” and you would like to structure these scriptures, Copy and paste Ruth 1 into a word pages document or write it out verse by verse, following the structuring handouts you received! If you were not there and I want to watch it, search “Digging Deeper” on our website or app and watch it for tools to help you in your study time!
- 4.** (Everyday) After you finish your rootwork every day, be sure to spend time in prayer (ACTS) going through what you have learned and received from the Word of God! This is also in your “Digging Deeper” handout!
- 5.** Review what you learned from the first 13 verses of Ruth 1, look at the chart with the first seven mistakes that Naomi and her husband made and what lessons you can learn from those mistakes! How has this helped identify patterns in your own life where you have made the same mistakes and learned from them? (At the bottom of your rootwork I have compiled a chart of these mistakes and lessons, as well as the new ones we discovered from this last study)
- 6.** Read Ruth 1:14-22, do you have another section theme you can find?
- 7.** Remember to buckle the straps of Naomi's sandals and try and put yourself in situation. what frame of mind is Naomi, Ruth and Orpah in? What are their emotions like? Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah are at a painful crossroads. They all face heavy grief. They reacted in different ways.
- 8.** The journey would take 25 miles, 2000ft in elevation, and one week to arrive there....can you imagine what that was like? How much time and opportunity the enemy had to try to change their minds?

9. Now, we have no idea how far into the journey these verses take place, the first mile, two miles, 10 miles..but can see how Naomi's concern intensified? Why do you think that was the case?

10. What are the two reactions from Naomi's daughters-in-law do you see?

11. How did the response from each daughter shed light on the relationship they had with their mother-in-law?

12. Did you look up the word "clung"? If not, do that now! What insight does this meaning give?

13. Have you ever clung to the Lord like this? If so, when and what were the circumstances?

14. Look up the account of the woman with the alabaster Jar in Mark 14 (or other gospel accounts as well), the woman who was bleeding for 12 years in Mark 5 (or other gospel accounts) and the widows mite in Mark 12! Then compare these accounts with Ruth and how she was willing to give up all she had to follow the Lord! Have you ever personally sacrificed your future to do what God was calling you to do even if it meant leaving everything? If so, explain and share at rootwork night, you have no idea how God wants to use you to encourage (instill courage) someone else who is ready to lay everything down to follow Jesus!! These two women gave up everything to follow Jesus.

15. Now take some time to contemplate these questions:

1. What was the difference between Orpah and Ruth?

2. Why Does one stay and one go?

3. What made one easily influenced and one wholeheartedly devoted?

16. Now take a minute to think about your own life, which one are you? Are you easily influenced or wholeheartedly devoted? Would you have stayed or would you have gone? Why or why not?

17. If the answer to the previous question was not what you would like for it to be, stop and ask the Lord to show you what is holding your back? What is keeping you from wholehearted devotion? Then once He reveals that, what does He desire you do with it? I know these are not easy questions sometimes, but please do not go on until you have identified and dealt with what you are clinging to that is not the Lord, not His call, and not His desire for you! I promise you my sister that there is no greater life than wholehearted devotion to the God who gave you life and wants to use it for His glory and purpose!!!!

18. Read verse 15, what happened here?

- 19.** Look up any words you want further insight on, and record what you find!
- 20.** Why do you think Naomi is so adamant? What is she telling Ruth to go back to and why?
- 21.** Read Zephaniah 2:9 and Numbers 21:29 for more insight on their religion and culture!
- 22.** Where is Naomi's focus? Why did she want to return to Bethlehem in the first place? To obey the Lord or to get something from Him?
- 23.** Have you even been there? Give an example including the outcome!
- 24.** Now look at the beliefs of Ruth and Orpah based on the choices they made, what did they truly believe? What was their hope in?
- 25.** In class we discussed how our actions will ultimately be the evidence of what we truly believe! How has this been true in your own life in the past? How is this true right now in your life? At the end of the day, when rubber meets the road, your life will be shaped by what you truly believe!!
- 26.** Read verses 16-17, look carefully at these verses and see if you can pull out the five statements of Ruth? Write them down and look up any words you want further insight on!
- 27.** This is the 4th time Naomi is trying to get Ruth to return to Moab! Then Ruth speaks, her heart and belief are revealed here! What does Ruth believe?
- 28.** Ruth sets a strong boundary - her voice probably raised a little as she told Naomi to stop 😊 !! I love this, this is how boundaries need to be set- when we know we have a call, when we know we are being obedient to the Word of God and someone (even well meaning people in our lives) tries to convince us to do otherwise we need to stop it just like Ruth does here! Have you been through something similar? Did you stop it? What happened?
- 29.** When you look at the statements Ruth gives here, what is she committing to? What is she actually saying here? And what is she leaving behind?
- 30.** When we are set apart as Christ followers, sometimes (or often times) it separates us from people, even the people we love!! Have you experienced this when you first became a Christ follower? Do you still experience this? How do you deal with it?
- 31.** We see here that Ruth has a willingness Orpah did not have, why do you think that is?

32. Statements 4 and 5 in verse 17 are pretty intense!

33. Where was Ruth's perspective? This is vital when we have to make hard decisions for the sake of doing the right thing! Just like Paul says in Phil. 3:13-14! Record what you find here and how important is it that we have the same perspective? Why?

34. Even though Naomi was bitter and totally hopeless....Ruth still saw something in her that was different than Moab! She saw something in her that drew her to her God! This is so important to remember in our own lives as well, you never know how your story can be used by God to bring others into the kingdom of God! Even if that story feels messy and hopeless! As we have already seen through the book of Ruth, our God is the Master at bringing beauty from ashes! So by being real and authentic with our walk and faith, our story reveals the grace and beauty of our God! It is not when we're perfect and all together! Write out a time that someone's messy story brought you hope and a realization of God's grace and beauty! How did it influence your life?

35. As we look at the relationship of Naomi and Ruth, what sticks out to you the most?

36. In class we talked a good bit about the agape love that God has for His body! What does that look like? What hinders that love for one another? How are you personally walking that love out in your marriage and friendships? Do you struggle with this? If so, why do you think you struggle? What needs to change in your perspective?

37. Look at the relationship of Johnathan and David from 1 Samuel 18, how do they exemplify the same kind of love Ruth has for Naomi?

38. How does this encourage you to change the way you do relationships? How does this better define how God intended relationships?

39. I want to note that this is not natural, it takes a lot of dying to self and being filled with the Spirit to truly walking out your identity in the lord, having the freedom to love how God loves..not having the focus on self and having the focus on others!! Write out your thoughts and questions on these to go over at rootwork night! There is so much we can learn from this topic!! Aren't you happy the Lord gave us everything for life and godliness?!

40. We also discussed the mentorship, pastorship and authority that God has set up!! How do we navigate that without swinging the pendulum too far? Without shutting down and getting hardened by past experiences? Read Hebrews 13:17 and record what you see! Then write your thoughts, and/or experiences!

41. Biblical relationships and authority is a gift we need to not take lightly! How has the enemy robbed you from enjoying that gift personally? How has God walked you through this, or how is He currently walking you through this?

42. Read verse 18, what did Naomi see in Ruth? And what was her response to it?

43. This is so stinking awesome!! Ruth stopped Naomi from trying to keep her from the call Ruth had- she may not have understood it, not known fully it was God, but she knew she was being drawn and nothing was going to stop her!! Have you ever been in a similar situation? If so, what happened?

44. In Bible study we talked about how Ruth did not only shut up Naomi, but she also shut up any plan the enemy had to stop her from going to Bethlehem!! See this as a perfect storm; Naomi is bitter and grieving, Orpah is fearful and Ruth is is vulnerable! So you can bet the enemy will look for the most opportune time to influence and pull them all away from God's perfect will!! This is so very true in our lives as well!! In class we discussed two warnings for us:

1. Be careful that you are not a tool in the wrong hands!
2. When anyone or anything tries to convince you to go against what God has called you to do... do what Ruth did and shut it down!!

45. Take a few minutes and write your thoughts on these two warnings! How have you seen this in your own life? How have you seen the people around you, who may mean well, but were used by the enemy to try and stop you from doing what God called you to do? What was the outcome?

46. Read verse 19, what happens here? What did they see in Naomi that made them question if it was her?

47. How does sin and sojourning in a foreign land affect our spiritual health, mental health, emotional health and our physical health? After you have identified each, how has this been a truth in your life as well?

48. Read verse 20-21, what does Naomi say? Where is she at emotionally? Why does she think she is there?

49. Look at the beginning of verse 21, what does she say? Is this totally true? Why or why not?

50. She says she was full and the Lord is the one who has brought her back empty. How is this the case? What was the mistake #8? How did this happen?

51. This reminds me of the situation of Eve with what God told her not to do, as well as the Israelites wanting to go back to Egypt for the pots of meat! Did they have their history right? If you have time, go back and look up these accounts and write out what was revised and why you think they revised their stories! Have you ever experienced this? If so, what happened? It is so important to remember that when we want to justify

our self pity we often get convenient “amnesia” to make our disobedience more understandable! Man, this is the flesh in all of it’s glory! We need to be so careful!!

52. What was the lesson #8 when we are tempted to revise our history to justify our sin? Read and write out Phil.4:8 and look up each word! How can this help you take every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ? How can this change your way of thinking?

53. What was mistake #9?

54. What Naomi does not understand, nor see, is that God is using her “bitter” circumstances not to afflict or destroy her but to RESCUE her!!! How has this been true in your life when you were bitter or disappointed with how your life is going?

55. Perspective is KEY, how can perspective change the focus and direction of your heart and your walk?

56. What is lesson #9? Remember you can not trust a God that you do not know! So it is vital to pull out that “Who is God” journal and worship Him in Spirit and truth so that your faith in who God is grows! Then you can fully depend on Him no matter what happens in your life!! Look up Isaiah 55:8-9 and write it out! Keep this verse somewhere you can see it and easily access it when you are tempted to blame God instead worship Him!!

57. Read verse 22 again, notice how Ruth is identified! Ruth the foreigner, Ruth the outcast, she does not belong in Bethlehem, she does not belong in the presence of God! Oh how similar we are to Ruth! We are gentiles, outcasts, orphans, and foreigners yet just like Ruth the Lord is calling us to Himself, giving us a family, not of blood but of the Spirit! He has given us a new birth and a new identity! We were once far off but we have been brought near and we can stand in the presence of God because of Christ Jesus!! We are His and He is our HOME!! Look up the following verses and record how we are brought near and into the family of God. Then if you have time, see how many verses you can find about us being grafted in or adopted in as God’s children and family!!

1. Ephesians 2:11-1

2. Romans 11:17-32

58. Lastly, notice the time in which they came back!! In class we discussed the benefits of the barley harvest! (Info received from Barley Harvest - Encyclopedia of The Bible-Bible gateway.)

1. The barley harvest was in the month of Nisan [March–April]. (Same time as the Passover)

2. The barley harvest was a time of waiting and trusting.
3. The barley harvest began on the day that Jesus rose from the grave.

Mistake	Lesson
1) When life got really hard - Elimelech and Naomi ran and sojourned in a foreign land for refuge!	1) Run to the Lord and not from, press in and not out!
2) Elimelech and Naomi forgot who their God was and what He has already done! (Even as they passed the stones of remembrance)	2) Remember who your God is, record His character in your who is God journal and your stones of remembrance journal for when you're struggling!
3) Elimelech and Naomi "remained" there- dwell- abide - made a home in Moab	3) Make your home or abide in Christ alone!
4) Elimelech and Naomi's sons married Moabite women	4) God has commands for a reason- obey and trust in the Lord - He knows what He is doing!
5) Naomi was looking at the temporal and not at the eternal!	5) Just because it is not possible for us, does not mean that is not possible for God!
6) Naomi lost hope	6) Look to God and His Word alone for hope!!
7) Naomi gave into self pity!	7) Biblical Perspective is life saving in midst of pain and grief!
8) Naomi Revised her history	8) Philippians 4:8 it!!
9) Naomi Blamed God for her problems	9) Trust God in Every Circumstance!!

4. The harvest of wheat came four weeks after the barley harvest.
5. Barley was mainly grown for horses and donkeys, but the poor also ate it.
6. The first fruits were brought to the Lord when the barley harvest began.

59. Think with me about the significance of the Passover and if you have some extra time, reread the process of the Passover in Exodus 12! Then come back and think about what was actually happening here! We see in the future that the Messiah, the Passover Lamb will come from the bloodline of Ruth and Boaz! So this is her first exposure to Passover, in the very town that the Lamb of God would enter the world! She had no idea of the beautiful significance here..the blood that would be shed for all mankind would come through her own bloodline and would be that of the Passover Lamb!! Can you imagine with me as Christ watched on as His great (a bunch of of greats 😂) grandmother would experience her first Passover...knowing full well that through her, He would be the very last Passover Lamb?! Oh the greatness of His glory and the greatness of the foreshadow of our God!! How I wish ALL knew the sacrifice and also the tapestry of His Grace and mercy on us all!! He is too wonderful for words!! This is a perfect time to just fall on your knees and worship the God who made a way for you! Worship Him for the plan He has woven together, worship Him for He is soo very good!!! 🙌🙏😭