

Bible Study on Ruth

Scripture references: Ruth chapter 1

Notes from the video:

Decisions over distractions:

The speaker made several good points before getting into the scripture on Ruth and the path she chose. We must be careful in life that we do not allow the good things to get in the way of God things.

- Choose calling over comfort – Sometimes we choose to stay where we are in like because we are comfortable with the people, places, and situations that are in our life at that time. In Ruth 1:8 Naomi encourages her daughters-in-laws to go back to their families instead of going with her. Naomi tells them it will be easier for them that way instead of journey with her to a place they have never been before and with no one to take care of them. Ruth 1:10 both Ruth and Orpah say they want to go with Naomi. At this point in the journey, both are willing to choose the calling vs comfort. We must be of the same mindset and realize that we must choose the calling the Lord has placed in our lives otherwise we will miss out on what God has in store for us.
- Choose reliance over reason – Ruth 1:10-13, in these scriptures Naomi tries to rationalize why her daughters-in-laws should return to their families and not follow her. She reminds them she has no more sons, that they could marry and take care of them. Sometimes we are like Naomi in these scriptures trying to rationalize what God has for us in the ministry or calling He has placed in our lives. We like to have a level of certainty of what is going to happen if we choose to follow or what will happen if we don't. We can think our way out of where God wants/needs us to be.
- Seek God's approval over the opinions of others – Ruth 1:14 in this passage the final decision is made by Ruth and Orpah, Ruth clings to Naomi and goes with her while Orpah kissed her and told her good-bye. In Ruth 1:15 Naomi again tries to discourage Ruth from going with her, but in Ruth 1:16 urges Naomi not to ask her to leave but to allow her to go wherever Naomi goes and that Naomi's God will be her God and Naomi's people will be her people. Once Naomi and Ruth finally arrive in Bethlehem (Ruth 1:19) all the women in the town started asking is this, Naomi. Sometimes we just must accept that people are going to question whether or not God is calling us to the place He is taking us to. We must block out the voices of the doubters and listen to the voice of the Master.
- Decisions lead to destiny – Ruth did not know what all would happen in her life when she was making the decision to follow Naomi to Bethlehem. All Ruth knew is that she wanted to follow God and that was all that mattered to her. We must come to the same point in our life that Ruth did that no matter what we are going to follow God and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. We must focus on God's call,

voice, and direction in our life. As the speaker mentioned in the video, our decisions lead us to our destiny, but only as much as we avoid the distractions that are bound to come up as we live this life.

Additional scripture to focus on:

- Matthew 16:24-25 after reading this scripture make a list of four comforts you tend to seek that might get in way of you following God's will for your life.

As you go through this week focus on the One who matters most and trust that, step-by-step, God can and will lead you to the place He wants you to be.