

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How was Ruth connected to the lineage of Christ?
2. Describe the relationship between Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi?
3. How devoted was Ruth to her mother-in-law? How devoted was Naomi to her daughter-in-law?
4. How does our own personal comfort influence our daily decisions?
5. How does God's living presence in a relationship overcome differences that might otherwise create division and disharmony?
6. How strongly do we forsake our own interests when we follow Christ?

SUMMARY:

We are called upon to make decisions daily. Some of them are far reaching and affect our eternal welfare. It seems that God brings men to crossroads in life from time to time, as was the case with Ruth. She was confronted with the choice of the land she would live in, the people she would live with, and the God she would serve. These same questions are relevant to our time and still have the same effect on lives today. If we choose God, as Ruth did, we may experience the blessings of God and the fellowship of His people plus eternal life. If we choose the world we may enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, but with the troubled heart that accompanies rejection of God and, in the end, eternal death and separation from God. Let us say within our hearts as David did, "As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me." (Psalm 55:16)

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

September 20, 2015

Third Quarter

RUTH'S GODLY CHOICE

LESSON TEXT: *Ruth 1:1-22*

LESSON SETTING: Ruth, the great-grandmother of King David, left her relatives in Moab and went to serve the living God of the Israelites.

TIME: Approximately 1322 - 1312 B.C.

I. THE STAY IN MOAB. Ruth 1:1-5

- A. To Escape Poverty (vs. 1)
- B. Brought Sorrow (vs. 3)

II. THE CHOICE AND COMMITMENT. Ruth 1:6-17

- A. Call to Decision. Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21; Mark 10:21
- B. The Wrong Choice. Proverbs 1:28-29; Isaiah 65:12
- C. The Right Choice. (vs. 16) Psalm 55:16; Hebrews 11:25; Matthew 9:9

III. THE RETURN TO BETHLEHEM. Ruth 1:18-22

- A. Steadfastness Prevails. (vs. 18) 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9; Revelation 3:11
- B. Walking Together. (vs. 19) Psalm 55:14; Malachi 3:16; Ephesians 5:2, 19, 30; Psalm 119:63
- C. The Return. (vs. 19) Malachi 3:7; Luke 15:20

GOLDEN TEXT: *ENTREAT ME NOT TO LEAVE THEE, OR TO RETURN FROM FOLLOWING AFTER THEE; FOR WHITHER THOU GOEST, I WILL GO.*

Ruth 1:16

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Ruth 4:1-17

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Proverbs 31; Ephesians 5:15-33

QUARTERLY THEME: Early Days in Canaan

TOPIC: RUTH'S REWARD

INTRODUCTION:

Ruth had sacrificed all in order to be with Naomi's God and people. She had yielded completely and in so doing was made a fit tool in God's hands. He could use her as He saw fit and as a result she was richly blessed. Her blessings in life also were a blessing to Naomi and she was again happy.

How thankful Ruth must have been that she had made the right choice. Her life became full and joyous. Not always does God bless us so richly in this life for the sacrifices we make. Often He asks for more sacrifices, and tries our love for Him again and again. Materially the blessings may not come, but spiritually they do and we are able to bear much fruit, and become an honor and glory to Him. Often our real rewards come only in Life Eternal. Thus we must go on looking upward and forward to that Blessed Hope of our redemption. We should live joyously in spite of the fact that we are not being blessed materially here, even as Ruth was.

CENTRAL TRUTH: A life yielded to God will always receive His reward.

GOLDEN TEXT: ...THEM THAT HONOR ME I WILL HONOR...

1 Samuel 2:30

In the verse containing this Golden Text, we also learn of those who do not honor God, but despise His holy calling. The sons of Eli had come into a high office, established generations before in their family by God Himself. But they lightly regarded their priesthood, and these who should have been an example of holiness, brought shame to God's Name by their wickedness. While pronouncing judgment upon them, God also promised favor to all who would honor Him.

Now, in the life of Ruth, this promise was fulfilled. Knowing God only as the God of her mother-in-law, Ruth desired to walk in His ways. Our lesson today, shows how wonderfully Ruth was blessed. She had only her love for Naomi and a childlike faith in Naomi's God to offer. We see the wonderful out-working of God's plan when she was used to provide a grandson for Naomi, while she, herself, became a great-grandmother of a King.

Should we not also each one honor God, according to His will and plan, and so become the "Child of a King?"

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 21 – 27

- M. Naomi's Godly Advice. Ruth 3:1-7
- T. Boaz Accepts Ruth. Ruth 3:8-13
- W. Boaz Counsels Ruth. Ruth 3:14-18
- T. *Ruth's Reward. Ruth 4:1-12
- F. *Ruth Marries Boaz. Ruth 4:13-17
- S. A Virtuous Woman. Proverbs 31:10-31
- S. Marriage in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 7:24-35

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