

# Lessons from Ruth



There are some important lessons  
to learn from this love story

Here are 7 lessons from Ruth

# 1 – God's Providence

- Behind the dark cloud is a silver lining
- **There was a famine** – Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. (1:1a)
- **There was a family** – The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion--Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. (1:2)

# 1 – God's Providence

- **There was a faith** – 16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me." (1:16-17)
- **There was a field** – Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. (2:3a)

## 2 – A Role for Women

- Study Ruth, Esther, Elizabeth, Mary, Deborah
- God used many women to do important work in the Old Testament
- There are four women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1.
- Ruth's son (Obed) was David's grandfather

# 3 – Good people live in dark times

- Setting of Ruth -
- Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. (1:1)
- **Judges 17:6** In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- Commentary – Ruth was a lily in the mud pond of Judges.

# 3 – Good people live in dark times

- Naomi – lost her husband and both sons in a foreign land of Moab
- Changed her name to Marah (bitter) (1:20) But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.
- One daughter-in-law chose to go back home to her parents

## 4 – Gentiles are included

- Moabites – from Moab, a son of Lot, constant enemy of Israel
- Ruth and Rahab are in the genealogy of Jesus – both are gentiles

# 5 – Christ is our Redeemer

- **Kinsman Redeemer duties:**
  - Save them from bankruptcy (poverty)
  - Avenge violence against them
  - Raise a successor (Leverite marriage)

# 5 – Christ is our Redeemer

- **The Redeemer must:**
  - Be related by blood
  - Able to pay the price
  - Willing to redeem
  - Be free himself

# 6 – Reward is more than the cost

- **Luke 14:26** If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.
- Some pain? Discomfort? Hardship? Trouble?
- **Compare to what we gain**

## 6 – Reward is more than the cost

- **Mark 10:29-31** 29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

# 7 – Love your family

- **Ruth 1:16-17** 16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.
- 17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

# 7 – Love your family

- **What does Ruth agree to do?**
- Travel with Naomi to a foreign land
- Live with Naomi
- Become part of her race
- Join in her religion / faith
- Die where she dies
- Be buried in the same grave
- Only death would separate them

# 7 – Love your family

- **This is often read at a wedding – same type of lifelong commitment**
- **Also applies to the family of God – the church**
- **Make the decision to be with Christ**