

The Reward of a Woman's Loyalty

Introduction

- Naomi & family moved from Bethlehem to Moab where the men died leaving her with two daughters-in-law [Orpah & Ruth] (1:1-5).
- The women are without income, stability & hope (v. 5).
- Ruth is extremely loyal in spite of Naomi's deterrence (1:6-18).
- Ruth is converted & returns to Bethlehem with Naomi in loyalty (1:15-18) – **"Your people shall be my people, and your God my God"**.
- Ruth is extremely loyal in spite of Naomi's bitterness (1:19-22) – "if anything but death parts me from you".

I. Ruth's Loyalty as a Widow (Ruth 2-3).

A. Finds favor with Boaz (2:1-23)

God used Ruth's trials in life to direct her to Boaz for help (v. 1-3). God controlled the circumstances in Naomi's life (drought & rain) for her to meet Ruth (1:1a, 6b). Boaz observed Ruth's beauty, humility & loyalty (v. 4-7, 11). Boaz offered Ruth protection & provision (v. 8-16). Ruth brought provisions & good news to Naomi (v. 17-23).

B. Finds love with Boaz (3:1-18)

Ruth seeks a loving relationship with Boaz (v. 1-9) – "you are a redeemer". A redeemer was a close relative who was expected to deliver destitute family members (Lev. 25:25). Boaz makes a promise of love to Ruth (v. 10-18).

As a believer, Ruth graciously overlooks her mother-in-law's failures & bitterness to love her (1Jn. 4:19). Ruth's outward beauty & godly character attracted Boaz.

II. Ruth's Loyalty as a Wife & Mother (Ruth 4:1-22)

A. Finds redemption with Boaz (v. 1-12)

Boaz took the initiative & made the arrangements to redeem Ruth (v. 1-8). Boaz paid the price of redemption for Ruth (v. 9-12). Jesus paid the price of redemption for all believers (1Co. 6:20; 1Tim. 2:5-6).

B. Finds marriage & a family with Boaz (v. 13-22)

Boaz married his Gentile bride without any reservations or stipulations (v. 13a). Ruth became pregnant as a gift from God & bore a son in the plan of God (v. 13b). People in every generation will be blessed because of this marriage (v. 14-22). Jesus is the bridegroom & the church is His bride.

Ruth obeyed God in humility & faith with limited knowledge of the scriptures. In faith, Ruth trusted God with her future – widow, daughter-in-law, beggar, wife, mother & matriarch in the great plan of redemption (Mt. 1:5).

APPL: God found Ruth when she was spiritually lost in a dark & foreign land. God **loved** Ruth, therefore Ruth could **love** Naomi. God **comforted** Ruth, therefore Ruth could **comfort** Naomi. God was **loyal** to Ruth so that Ruth could be **loyal** to Naomi. God was **faithful** to Ruth, therefore Ruth could be **faithful** during her trials. God had **humbled** Ruth, therefore she could **humbly** seek help & deliverance from Boaz. God rewards Ruth's loyalty, humility & faithfulness with both spiritual & physical blessings...