

Week 7 **Ruth & Boaz – the Impact of Faithful Living**
Ruth 1-4

A short story with a big message!

Some background information on the Book

Six scenes of faithfulness in action

Scene I – Leaving Bethlehem for the fields of Moab 1:1-18

☛ A decade of death for Naomi & family

Deuteronomy 23:3-6 (NIV) No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation. For they did not come to meet you with bread and water on your way when you came out of Egypt, and they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram Naharaim to pronounce a curse on you. . . Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them as long as you live.

See Ezra 9-10 and Nehemiah 13 on the later enforcement of this prohibition in Ezra and Nehemiah's time.

☛ The Jews and “Levirate” marriage

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 (NIV) If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel. However, if a man does not want to marry his brother's wife, she shall go to the elders at the town gate and say, "My husband's brother refuses to carry on his brother's name in Israel. He will not fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to me." Then the elders of his town shall summon him and talk to him. If he persists in saying, "I do not want to marry her," his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders, take off one of his sandals, spit in his face and say, "This is what is done to the man who will not build up his brother's family line." That man's line shall be known in Israel as The Family of the Unsandaled.

Judah and Tamar story an example of this – Genesis 38

Jesus “tested” by the Sadducees about a hypothetical Levirate marriage situation – Mark 12:18-27

☛ *Hesed* – the character of covenant people

Exodus 34:6-7 (NIV) *He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."*

Scene II – Returning home to Bethlehem 1:19-22

☛ Is it okay to get angry with God?

Job 42:7 (NIV) *After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."*

1 Corinthians 10:10-13 (NIV) *And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

Jeremiah 29:11 (NJB) *"I know what plans I have in mind for you, Yahweh declares, plans for peace, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*

Scene III – Gleaning in the fields of Boaz 2:1-23

Leviticus 19:9-10 (NIV) *"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God."*

Deuteronomy 24:17-22 (NIV) *"Do not deprive the alien or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this."*

Psalms 91:1-4 (NIV) *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you... He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

☛ Naomi remembers “the go`el!” – (mentioned 10 times)

Isaiah 43:1 (NIV) This is what the LORD says-- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

Isaiah 47:4 (NIV) Our Redeemer--the LORD Almighty is his name-- is the Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 74:2 (NIV) Remember the people you purchased of old, the tribe of your inheritance, whom you redeemed-- Mount Zion, where you dwelt.

Scene IV – Proposing at the threshing floor 3:1-18

Ezekiel 16:8 (NIV) "Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine."

Proverbs 5:21 (NIV) For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.

Judges 21:25 (NAS) In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NAS) "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."

☛ A couple truly made for each other!

<i>Ruth's character</i>	<i>Boaz's character</i>
<i>Faith – 1:16</i>	<i>Faith – 2:4,12</i>
<i>Loyalty – 2:11-12</i>	<i>Admiration of loyalty – 2:11-12</i>
<i>Generosity – 2:18</i>	<i>Generosity 2:8-9, 14-16; 3:15-17</i>
<i>Responsibility – 2:2</i>	<i>Responsibility – 3:11-13; 4:10</i>
<i>Work ethic – 2:7, 17-18, 23</i>	<i>Work ethic – 3:2</i>
<i>Courtesy – 2:10,13</i>	<i>Chivalry - 2:14; 3:14</i>
<i>Obedience – 3:3-9</i>	<i>Thoroughness – 3:18</i>

Scene V – Redeeming at the gates of Bethlehem 4:1-12

Scene VI – Celebrating in the home of Boaz 4:13-22

Valuable take-aways for our day

1. In the darkest of times, _____ he remembers!

1 Peter 2:9 (NAS) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

2. "Covenant people" simply _____.

1 John 4:16-17 (NIV) We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us...in this world we are like him.

3. We serve _____ in our everyday encounters.

4. We must _____.

Acts 10:34-35 (NIV) Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."

5. F _____ is a big thing to the Lord.

Psalms 15:1-5 (NIV) LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

Luke 16:10-11 (NAS) "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much."

6. Duty is _____.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NIV) Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

7. The _____, even in bitter times.