

Ruth: A Story of Sacrificial Love

1 John 5:2

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

Background: Ruth 1:1-3

Main Characters:

God

Naomi - a mature widow in a patriarchal society and living in a foreign land.

Ruth - a young widow, daughter in law to Naomi.

Boaz – a guardian redeemer in Elimelek’s family.

Ruth’s Oath

Ruth 1:16-17

16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. **Your people will be my people and your God my God.** **17** Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

Sojourner

Numbers 15:15,16

15 The community is to have the same rules for you and for the foreigner residing among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. **You and the foreigner shall be the same before the Lord:** **16** The same laws and regulations will apply both to you and to the foreigner residing among you.

Summary

Naomi was focused on the problem.

"Why would you come with me?..... Even if I thought there was still hope for me...." (1:11,12)

Ruth was focused on God.

"Your people will be my people and your God my God" (1:16)

Boaz was God's provision for Ruth and Naomi.

13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. 14 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! 15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." (4:13-15)

Discussion Questions

1. Have there been times when trials have overwhelmed you?
 - b. How can you keep your focus on God?
2. Can you think of anyone who encouraged you during difficult times?
 - b. What did they do to uplift you?
3. Is God laying someone on your heart to encourage?
 - b. What should you do to prepare?
(Hint: attitude -1Jn. 3:16 ; power, guidance - 3:22)