

***“Romance & Redemption”***  
**Lessons On Faithfulness from the Book of Ruth**

**Review: Issue?** Unfaithfulness wrecks people’s lives everyday. Betrayal DEEP wounds!  
Unfaithfulness multiplies like weeds...grows and produces seed that spreads.

**Proverbs 20:6** *Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?*

**News headline:** 78 million in cash found and returned to owners Japan!

**God is faithful to do everything He says he will do!**

*“Faithful & True” – Jesus’ Name in Revelation 19:11*

*“Show me your glory” – God proclaims “...abounding in love & faithfulness”*

**2 Timothy 2:13** *if we are **faithless**, he remains **faithful**; for he cannot deny himself.*

*God promises is we PLANT faithfulness, we will REAP a harvest of faithfulness!*

**Last Week: “God is Faithful and True...and Faithfulness changes everything!**

**God was faithful to Naomi & Ruth, but also His EPIC plan in Jesus – Mt. 1**

Naomi had lived in faithfulness to God with Ruth...example & witness

Ruth made a PLEDGE of faithfulness to Naomi when her faith was “faint.”

Ruth made a PLEDGE of faithfulness to the God of the Bible. **(CONVERSION)**

Naomi RECEIVED Ruth’s faithfulness in relationship **(RECEPRICAL)**

\* For any **relationship** to stay in tact **faithfulness must go both ways!**

Life-time of Faithfulness is built one decision at a time.

WARNING: Unfaithfulness works the same way.

**Ruth was FAITHFUL in: 1. Presence 2. Words 3. Follow through**

**Message: God wants to demonstrate His faithfulness TO you and THROUGH you!**

God is looking for faithful women and men to accomplish his EPIC purposes!

Will it be YOU? Willing to count the cost?

**Act 2 “God’s FAITHFUL PROVISION” God Provides a Faithful Redeemer (Hero)**

**Redeemer:** a hero who pays the ransom for those who cannot rescue themselves.

Literally: to buy back; *to pay the ransom for rescue.*

**READ: Ruth 2:11-12, 20**

**Scene 1: Meet Boaz (Hero)** - relative of late husband, Naomi had forgotten about. Boaz is son of Rahab (prostitute who God used to help Israel take Jericho – Josh 2) Ruth wants to go to fields and pick up the left-overs (Lord had commanded Moses). Lev. 19:9-10

**A. God’s FAITHFUL PROVISION or Coincidence?**

*“Happens” to end up in Boaz’ field. Vs. 3*

God is faithfully working his plans for you!

Proverbs 16:9 *“A man’s mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”*

**God’s PROVISION comes thru a faithful man: Boaz plants GENEROUSLY!**

1. **Presence** – shows up at the fields

2. **Words** – blesses his workers; employees bless him back!

3. **Follow Through** – learned to be GENEROUS in RESOURCES: 2 Cor. 9:10-13  
a. Generous in PROTECTION and PROVISION for Ruth – vs. 8-9  
HE tells RUTH to stay in his fields,

**B. God's FAITHFUL PROTECTION:** comes through a faithful man

1 Sam. 26: <sup>23</sup> *The LORD rewards everyone for their faithfulness.*

**Ruth's Question:** Why have I, a foreigner, found favor in your eyes?

**Boaz Answer:** FAITHFULNESS to Naomi.

**Boaz Blessing:** *May the Lord repay you, May the Lord richly reward you*

**Boaz Insight:** *You have come to take refuge under **HIS wings**.*

**\* It is GOD'S providential provision coming THRU Boaz; not Boaz'**

**Ex. 19:4:** Refuge under His wings, etc.

**Ps. 91:4** *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his **wings** you will find refuge; his **faithfulness** will be your shield and rampart.*

**Scene 2: Naomi's Revelation:** He then feeds her, tells his men to purposely leave her stalks of grain to pick up, and treat her well. She went back to Naomi with approx 30 pounds of grain...enough food for 10 days!! Much more than normal left-overs and tells Naomi about Boaz.

**A. Naomi's revelation: *God has not stopped showing his kindness after all!***

God has provided a "kinsman-redeemer" (relative who rescues with a ransom)

**Redeemer Qualifications:** Relative, Ransom (means to buy back),

Naomi has NOT continued to be called "Mara" (bitter)

Boaz is a picture of Christ The Redeemer!

**PROBLEM: I have been UNFAITHFUL & probably will be again! (guilt & shame)**

**I live among unfaithful family members, friends, spouse. What do I do?**

Betrayal, gossip, slander, broken promises, haven't shown up, have given up!

Friends, family, marriage, work, etc.

**GOOD NEWS for Your FAILURE: *God is faithful to FORGIVE!***

**1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is **faithful** and just and will **forgive** us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

**GOOD NEWS for OTHER'S failure: *You can forgive, and keep planting seeds!***

**PRAY:** Father, FORGIVE my unfaithfulness. Help me PLANT seeds of faithfulness and thank you for producing a bountiful harvest of the Fruit of the Spirit, faithfulness, in my life.

**Lam. 3:**<sup>19</sup> *I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. <sup>20</sup> I will remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. <sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; **great is your faithfulness.** <sup>24</sup> I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." <sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; <sup>26</sup> it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.*

**Carnations: Tovars' 4 in discipleship class**

## NOTES:

**An Israelite Custom** when an Israelite husband died, his brother or near relative was to marry the widow and continue the brother's name ([Deuteronomy 25:5-10](#)). The responsibilities of the kinsman redeemer had been clearly defined in God's law and included marrying a childless widow to raise up children in her dead husbands' name. (Deut 25-10) The redeemer had to be a blood relative. Here we see the need for Jesus to be born on earth, being made in the likeness of man (Phil 2:7) so that he could qualify as our redeemer. Naomi is referring to this custom (in verse 11) when she says she has no sons to marry Ruth and Orpah. She thinks it is hopeless for Ruth and Orpah to remain committed to the family name.

There's a lesson here. When we have decided that God is against us, we usually exaggerate our hopelessness. We become so bitter we can't see the rays of light peeping out around the clouds. It was God who broke the famine and opened the way home (1:6). It was God who preserved a kinsman to continue Naomi's line (2:20). And it was God who constrains Ruth to stay with Naomi. But Naomi is so embittered by God's hard providence that she can't see his mercy at work in her life.

**Cliff Hanger:** God has a plan and is working the plan; someone special is coming from these divine circumstances! Linage in Matthew & Luke

\* Obed will be Ruth's son (Naomi's grandson), Jesse will be Ruth's grandson, and David will be her great grandson, and Jesus will be the ultimate Redeemer!