



Walking with God:

A Study on the Book of

Ruth

Day Sixteen

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The end of our journey is at hand. We have walked with Ruth through many stages of her life. We met her as an unbeliever in a foreign land, newly widowed, and seemingly without any prospects. We lived with her in Bethlehem as she humbly gleaned grain day after day. Finally, we rejoiced with Ruth as she became a new bride and a daughter of Israel. Through it all, God was busy working behind the scenes (*miqreh/qarah*) to bring redemption (*ga'al*) to His beloved. He is doing the same for you and me. It is my prayer that you have also found redemption through the study of God's Holy Word. Let us learn from Ruth, above anything, no matter the cost—to seek Him.

Please gather your study materials, turn on your computer and queue up BLB. Now, please take a moment to pray and ask God for forgiveness for your sins. Also, ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit and open the eyes of your heart to the truth of His word. Sign your initials when you have finished praying: _____

Please read Ruth Chapter Four in your favorite version of the Bible. Write down in your journal any special verses or any new revelations you receive from God.

Now please read Ruth Chapter Four aloud from another version of the Bible on BLB.

What wonderful blessing comes to Boaz and Ruth in verse 13?

Is there a touch of the miraculous in the birth of this child? If so, what?

The phrase, "The Lord gave her conception," is noteworthy to me. The woman who has been barren for ten years now immediately conceives a child.

Ruth's marriage to Mahlon did not result in a baby. Why do you think Ruth is now able to have a baby?

As you read about the Birth of Obed, do any other miraculous Biblical births come to mind?

I think of Isaac, Samuel, John the Baptist and of course, Jesus. When God intervenes in the birth of a child, He is working something miraculous for the nation of Israel—often the family-line of the Messiah is involved. Obed's birth is no exception.

Now please read verses 14-15 again.

Ruth is given a blessing by the townswomen in Ruth 4:11-12, but who is given a blessing in verse 14-15?

The book of Ruth opens with the emptiness, bitterness and hopelessness of Naomi who asks to be called *Mara*. In contrast, the book ends with fullness, blessing, and joy!

Why is Naomi once again *pleasant and delightful*?

Because of a baby born in Bethlehem. The birth of Obed and gives Naomi a reason to hope again. Many generations later another miracle Baby is born in Bethlehem. He also came to turn our emptiness to fullness, our famine to feast, and our bitterness to blessedness.

What two words are used to describe Obed in verse 15?

What word is used to describe Naomi in verse 16?

Now please go to BLB and do a word search for *restorer*. Please record your findings in your journal—I think you'll be blessed by what you discover. Be sure to read Gesenius' Lexicon for extra information. You won't want to miss what God has for you there.

Did you discover anything surprising about the Hebrew word for *restorer*?

God is full of surprises isn't He? The Hebrew word for *restorer* is the same word used over and over again for *return, go back, turn back* from chapter one.

Who is the described as being the *restorer*?

Not Boaz but _____.

Obed—a child redeemer is a *type* of *Christ*—a person who exhibits a character quality that will be fulfilled by Christ. A *type* can also refer to a *future event* that

will be fulfilled by Christ.

Now please do word searches for *nourisher* and *nurse* and record your findings in your journal.

Do verses 15 and 16 give you any hope? I am greatly encouraged by both of these verses. As I approach my fiftieth birthday, I am glad that God will nourish and restore me through this time of life. My older years will not be seasons of famine but of harvest, fruitfulness and usefulness. God will continue to provide for me and use me as He always has. Perhaps the most encouraging thing about verses 15 and 16 is God gives Naomi another chance in the area she experienced her greatest struggles—child rearing. Her own two sons die young in a strange land, leaving behind foreign widows, and they have no heirs. Yet, Naomi receives another chance to raise a child in the Lord. Amazing grace. Amazing God.

Dear sister or brother in Christ, God will never leave you or me in our failure either. He forever lives to bring restoration and healing to our deepest failures, sins and regrets. This Bible study is proof of His faithfulness and redemption for me. He will give you beauty for your ashes too.

What do you need God to redeem for you?

Please read 17-22 and answer the following:

Who is Obed's son?

Who is Jesse's son?

Now for a final blessing, please turn to Matthew in the New Testament and read 1:1-16.

Who are Boaz' parents?

Rahab is a foreign prostitute who has a heart for God (shocking isn't it?) In the book of Joshua, God uses Rahab to accomplish a great work for His people, not because she has a perfect record, but because she has a willing heart. When God brings down the walls of her heart, Rahab follows Him for the rest of her life. As you may have noticed, Rahab is included in the family line of Christ. No wonder Boaz has a heart for God and for foreign women who love Him.

Who else is listed in Matthew 1:5?

When Ruth left Moab and eventually marries Boaz, she does not know that she

would be included in the family line of the Messiah. She probably never knew of her legacy this side of heaven. Her main concerns are to follow God, to provide for her mother-in-law and continue her husband's family line. In doing these things Ruth inadvertently leaves a legacy that will last for all eternity. She is included in the family line of Christ. Her husband's name will not last for all time but for all eternity.

Ironically, another meaning behind the Hebrew word *Boaz* is *pillar*. *Boaz* is the name of one of the two brazen pillars that supported the porch of Solomon's temple. *Boaz* a pillar of the temple, *Boaz* a *pillar* in the family line of Christ, upon which the Christian church is built.

What gifts has God given you?

How can you use you gifts to help to build the church?

Is your legacy any less important than Ruth's? We have no idea how God will use our work in the lives of our families and others in our sphere of influence. Our smallest act of obedience may have tremendous impact on those who come behind us. May we be as faithful as Ruth.

What legacy do you want to leave for those who come behind you?

Your legacy for tomorrow is built by the decisions you make today.

What do you need to do to build that legacy?

In closing, it has been a pleasure to walk with you through the pages of Ruth. May her faith encourage you to follow Christ against all odds. So go on. Keep following. Keep trusting. Never give up. Wherever He goes, you go. Wherever He lives, you live. Follow God all the days of your life.

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