

THE BOOK OF RUTH – DECISIONS AND CHOICES

February 5, 2012

4. Ruth Meets Boaz in the Grain Fields

Ruth 2:1-23

- 1. The Book of Ruth is a cameo (character part) story of love, devotion and redemption set in the context of the days of the Judges. This Book is a wonderful story as through its various characters (especially Naomi and Ruth) we are reminded that God works in mysterious and surprising ways to make His love known and to accomplish His purposes, even during difficult times of our lives. The Book is infused with allegories and cameos that help us understand problem solving through the decisions and choices we make that determine the kind of lives we lead as well as our eternal destiny. The Book is about salvation from the problem of sin and that it requires decisions and choices to accept or reject this salvation that determines our eternal destiny.**
- 2. Salvation is a commitment to accept Jesus as Lord and savior. The reward is an everlasting relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit along with Eternal life and eternal destiny of Heaven as the ultimate. Even though life is problem solving the way you look at problems determines the solutions or the creation of additional problems. So learn to view your problems from God's perspective to see the positive, the people and the facts rather than become overly self-indulged to have blinded eyes that are emotionally filled with tears and bitterness, or fearfully filled with terror. In so doing you will find favor with Him and man.**
- 3. Naomi and Ruth have now returned to Bethlehem after hearing that the Lord has visited His people and has come to their aid, providing them with bread. But the key verse that introduces the Book of Ruth is the last verse in the Book of Judges: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25, NKJV). The implication is that the people in the days of the Judges made decisions and choices to do what was right in their own eyes and as they so pleased without any intent or thought of pleasing God. Ruth chose to continue her loyalty to Naomi. She was industrious and did not want to stay idle. And since both widows arrived during the beginning of the barley harvest, she decided to go to work right away to provide food for them. So Ruth went out to the fields to glean from others since they had not planted any fields for that season. Through this effort, Ruth ended up meeting Boaz in the grain fields where she found favor to be able to glean without any molestation.**
- 4. Thus today's text reads, "Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." 3 So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek. 4 Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!" "The LORD bless you!" they answered. 5 Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?" 6 The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. 7 She said, 'Please let**

me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.’ She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.” 8 So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. 9 Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.” 10 At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?” 11 Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. 12 May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.” 13 “May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord,” she said. “You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants.” 14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.” When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. 15 As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, “Let her gather among the sheaves and don’t reprimand her. 16 Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don’t rebuke her.” 17 So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah (probably about 30 lbs or about 13 Kg). 18 She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough. 19 Her mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!” Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. “The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” she said. 20 “The LORD bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers.” 21 Then Ruth the Moabite said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.’” 22 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else’s field you might be harmed.” 23 So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law” (Ruth 2:1-23).

5. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize today’s sermon as follows:

- The decisions and choices you make affect your Christian fruitfulness and eternal destiny
- When you make a commitment to Christ to be your Lord and savior, He orders your steps in His Word and you find favor with Him and man.
- Loyalty, diligence and devotion are prerequisites for good communication. Ruth had these qualities.

- All relationships thrive and grow in the presence of consistent good communication. And let the church say, “Amen!”
- 5 So if you desire to know God and enjoy the status of a child of God with the beautiful grace of God in your pleasant human soul and live by the Spirit to inherit eternal life we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?
 - 6 And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org? If you are a child of God, and this message has blessed or helped you why don't you also write and tell us?

Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. Chris Johns, Youth Minister

THE BOOK OF RUTH – DECISIONS AND CHOICES

February 12, 2012

5. Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor

Ruth 3:1-18

INTRODUCTION – Earnie Davis “The Movie the Express”

1. Help Syracuse capture national championship 1961
2. Rush for 823 yards and 15 touchdowns
3. First round draft pick in NFL 1962, died at 23
4. What choices did he make when things went wrong?
5. What racial barriers did he have to break?
6. What were the decisions that Ruth made?
7. What was the outcome of those decisions?

I. Arrange a good home for a happy life. Vs 1-2

A. Naomi begins to think about Ruth future

1. Begin to look past her own discouragement
2. Dismayed – be shattered, be broken, be abolished, be afraid/terrified, be worried/depressed

Prov 13:12 – Hope deferred make heart sick “Heart becomes discouraged when it does not happen the way we want it to happen.

3. We all have had setbacks in life that discourage us but God will strengthen, help, and uphold.

II. Choice to get prepared for the blessing. Vs 3&4

A. Clean yourself up – Naomi instructs Ruth

1. Christ is coming for a clean church

B. Make ourselves available

1. Be obedient and accept wise counsel
2. Wait for instruction from Boaz.

III. Obedience Vs. 5-9

- A. Vs. 5 “I will do whatever you say” Ruth answered.
- B. Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge

IV. Blessing from the right choice Vs. 10-15

- A. He promises to redeem her if nearest kin does not.
- B. He gives her 6 measures of barley in her shawl
- C. Gal 6:9 – Due season we shall reap if we faint not
- D. Heb 10:35-36 – We will receive the promise after we have done the will of God
(What we deal with is not for us sometime but to encourage someone else in their walk)
- E. Sometimes the right choice to us is to the path of destruction. There is a way that seems right unto a man.

V. Naomi makes the choice to move from discouragement to encouragement Vs. 16-18

- A. Instructs that Boaz is not going to mess around
 1. She accepts the blessing of barley
 2. God promises us to never leave us nor forsake us
 3. Through choices Ruth made to be with her mother-In-Law came the union with Boaz.
 4. Ruth gave birth to Obed and Obed to Jesse and Jesse was the father of King David down to Jesus Christ.
 5. If Ruth would not have made the right choices
Impacted David and book of psalms
Proverbs – Trust in the Lord with all...
Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
Impacted the order Christ came
 6. Key decisions enabled us to have hope
Magnificent plan for Jew & Gentile
Christ being our ultimate redeemer.

When we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and savior, we enter a relationship with Christ and become part of God’s holy family. If you desire to enter a relationship with Christ and be made right with God why don’t you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org

THE BOOK OF RUTH – DECISIONS AND CHOICES

February 19, 2012

6. Boaz Marries Ruth

Ruth 4:1-12

- 1 The Book of Ruth is a cameo (character part) story of love, devotion and redemption set in the context of the days of the Judges. This Book is a wonderful story as through its various characters (especially Naomi and Ruth) we are reminded that God works in mysterious and surprising ways to make His love known and to accomplish His purposes, even during difficult times of our lives. The Book is infused with allegories and cameo that helps us understand problem solving through the decisions and choices we make that determine the kind of lives we lead as well as our eternal destiny. The Book is about salvation from the problem of sin and that it requires decisions and choices to accept or reject this salvation that determines our eternal destiny.**
- 2. Salvation is a commitment to accept Jesus as Lord and savior. It is like getting married; making a life commitment. But in this case, the reward is an everlasting relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit along with Eternal life and eternal destiny of Heaven as the ultimate. And even though life is problem solving, the way you look at problems determines the solutions or the creation of additional problems. So learn to view your problems from God's perspective to see the positive, the people involved and the real facts rather than become overly self indulged to have blinded eyes that are emotionally filled with tears and bitterness, or fearfully filled with terror. In so doing you will find favor with Him and man.**
- 3. Naomi and Ruth have now returned to Bethlehem after hearing that the Lord has visited His people and has come to their aid, providing them with bread. But the key verse that introduces the Book of Ruth is the last verse in the Book of Judges: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25, NKJV). The implication is that the people in the days of the Judges made decisions and choices to do what was right in their own eyes and as they so pleased without any intent or thought of pleasing God. Ruth chose to continue her loyalty to Naomi. She was industrious and did not want to stay ideal. Boaz had now met Ruth on several occasions and has taken note of her to be a committed, industrious, loyal, and diligent woman of noble character. And so he agreed to become her guardian-redeemer provided the closest relative to Elimelek was unwilling to fulfill this responsibility as the appropriate guardian-redeemer. As such Boaz decided to approach the relative first before acquiring Ruth, the Moabite, as his wife.**
- 4. Thus today's text reads, "Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer (The Hebrew word for guardian-redeemer is a legal term for one who has the obligation to redeem a relative in serious difficulty; see Lev. 25:25-55) he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. 2 Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said "Sit here," and they did so. 3 Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. 4 I thought I should bring the matter to your**

attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.” “I will redeem it,” he said. 5 Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.” 6 At this, the guardian-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.” 7 (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) 8 So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal. 9 Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. 10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!” 11 Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. 12 Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah” (Ruth 4:1-12).

5. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize today’s sermon as follows:
 - The decisions and choices you make affect your Christian fruitfulness and eternal destiny
 - When you make a commitment to Christ to be your Lord and savior, He orders your steps in His Word and you find favor with Him and man.
 - Loyalty, diligence and devotion are prerequisites for good communication. Ruth had these qualities. These qualities also result in her noble character that subsequently resulted in her gaining favor with Boaz and getting married to him.
 - All things need to be done decently and in order just like Boaz did in his process to become Ruth’s guardian redeemer; receiving the blessings of the elders and the people at the city gate. Let the church say, “Amen!”
6. So if you desire to know God and enjoy the status of a child of God with the beautiful grace of God in your pleasant human soul and live by the Spirit to inherit eternal life we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?
7. And if you are reading this on the Internet why don’t you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org? If you are a child of God, and this message has blessed or helped you why don’t you also write and tell us?

THE BOOK OF RUTH – DECISIONS AND CHOICES

February 26, 2012

7. Naomi Gains a Son and the Genealogy of David

Ruth 4:13-22

In the fourth chapter of Ruth, verses 13-22, we find the conclusion of the story of Ruth and Naomi. A story that started with a tense plot as Elimelech and Naomi faced a famine in their homeland. Then there were the dramatic parts as widowed Naomi decides to go back to Bethlehem in Judah, and her two daughter-in-laws make their choices to leave and/or stay. There then comes the optimism as Ruth and Naomi meet Boaz. The climax then comes as it looks as if Boaz will not be able marry Ruth. But, the story has a happy ending as Boaz and Ruth marry. And the Book of Ruth concludes with Boaz and Ruth having a son.

Throughout the entire Book of Ruth, in each of the characters life we see that their lives were full of problems that were solved or complicated by only their own decisions and choices. We see that each character's decisions and choices have either consequences or benefits and rewards. We finally see that each decision and choice shaped each character's life. For Ruth the sum total of her choices and decisions in life was her having a son. All of her decisions and choices in her life bore her something and caused her to be fruitful.

We each must examine our own choices and decisions and see if they are Fruitful or Fruitless and Barren decisions. The terms "good" or "bad" in reference to decisions and choices may be deceptive. For it may have seemed like a "good" decisions for Elimelech to move his family from a land suffering with a food shortage, but it was not a living/fruitful choice rather it was a barren/dying choice resulting in he and his two son's death. It may have seemed like a "bad" decision for Ruth to leave her home, family, and a place where she could find a husband to leave to a strange famine suffering land with her mother-in law who said that the hand of the LORD was against her. (Ruth 1:13) But at the end of her story we see that her decisions lead to a fruitful and living decision as she gained a husband and gave birth to a son.

The key to making Fruitful decisions and choices is becoming a servant of God. A servant is one who is faithful to and listens and obeys their master. God cares for His servants and nurses them to strength in their weakest moments by restoring and renewing their lives. When we listen and obey God's word, and all that he commands us to do, then everything we do will become Fruitful. When we make decisions and choices that advance God's purpose for our lives and His kingdom we then will bear much fruit.

Throughout the Book of Ruth we see Fruitful and Fruitless decisions. How Fruitful was the decision of Elimelech in his own strength and effort, to move his family from the “House of Bread”, the presence of God, the Land of Bethlehem in Judah to the land of incest and sin in Moab? The result - he and his two sons died (Ruth 1:3-5) and Naomi who once was full was now empty. (Ruth 1:21) How Fruitful was the decision of Naomi to leave Moab and return to Bethlehem in Judah? When she returned it was the beginning of the barley harvest and the crops were yielding their fruit. (Ruth 1:22) What about the decision of Ruth and Orpah to leave and/or to stay with Naomi, respectfully? With Ruth her story continues as she becomes the main and central character. But Orpah, after she kisses her mother-in-law goodbye (Ruth 1:14) is she mentioned any more in the story? Or even in the Bible? How Fruitful was the decision of Ruth to ask Naomi to go out and work, and Naomi’s choice to allow her to go? Ruth goes and finds favor in the field of Boaz and gathers a large amount of barley and was even invited to sit at Boaz’s table to eat until she was full and then was able to take much home. (Ruth 2:2-19) How Fruitful was the decision of Ruth to listen to and obey all that Naomi told her to do by gleaning only in Boaz’s field (Ruth 2:22) and by lying at his feet (Ruth 3:4)? Boaz saw the integrity of her character as a virtuous Proverbs 31 woman and a suitable wife. (Ruth 3:10-11) Finally, How Fruitful was the decision by Boaz to redeem Ruth, Naomi, and all of Elimelech’s estate by marrying Ruth? He gained a wife, the blessings of those around him (Ruth 4:11-12; 14-16), and also a son.

Finally the Book of Ruth closes with a reminder that our decisions and choices effects more than just ourselves but also those around us and those that will come after us. We have the choice to cause either Fruitful Blessings to fall on ourselves and those around us or to cause curses to fall on those that will come after us. That’s why the Book of Ruth concludes with her genealogical line (Ruth 4: 18-22) because of her choices and decisions those after her were also blessed as King David and Jesus were a part of her family tree. (Matthew 1:1-17) We each must decide, choose, and purpose to be Faithful in obeying the Word of God and consequently we will become Fruitful in serving Him. But we first must become His servant, turn from disobeying and rebelling against him, and turn to listening and obeying Him. Then our lives will become sweet, Fruitful, full of life and pleasant, no longer bitter, empty, dying and failing. If you desire to enter a relationship with Christ and be made right with God why don’t you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org

And if you are reading this on the Internet why don’t you also pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org? If you are a child of God, and this message has blessed or helped you why don’t you also write and tell us?