



Ruth

“Women in the Genealogy of Christ”

“And Ruth said, ‘Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.’” Ruth 1:3

As we think about the women in the genealogy of Christ, we recognize the name of Ruth because there is a book in the Bible named for her. Certainly she must have been above reproach. Ruth was another “foreigner in the lineage. She was a Moabite, a Gentile.

Ruth is the last one that is included in the group of people in the genealogy that are close to the Patriarchs. The actual genealogy is divided into three parts. The first third are Patriarchs, the second third are Kings, and the last third are actually almost all unknown people that were too unimportant to be mentioned other places in the Bible.

There was a famine in Israel long before Ruth is in the picture. Because of this famine, Naomi and her husband Elimelech along with their two sons had gone to the land of Moab. This was stepping into the hands of the enemy, or was it. Elimelech’s name is defined as “my God is King”. We can also think on this as just another circumstance, or part of God’s plan. Abraham and Isaac had both thought about going to Moab, but did not. While they are there, the two sons married girls who were Moabites. After Naomi’s husband dies, she decided to go back to her homeland of Bethlehem. Is this all just a circumstance, or is God showing us that Christ is a descendant of all people, Jews, Moabite, Gentile, even the Canaanite. Sometimes what we might see as a disaster could be a stepping stone for God to act on our behalf.

Some think it is not just circumstances that the story of Ruth begins with people from Bethlehem who went in search of food and then Ruth becomes an ancestor of Christ born in Bethlehem. In Deuteronomy we read that a Moabite shall “not enter the assembly of the Lord even to the tenth generation (Deuteronomy 23:1) and yet the Lord allowed the Moabite wife to become an ancestress of the Savior of all nations. (Ephesians 2:11-22) Naomi took care of Ruth and told her to go into the fields to glean the leftovers from the field after the harvesters had gone on. While there, she is also noticed by Boaz. Eventually they get married and Ruth has a son named Obed.

It is interesting to note that the women of a community named the child, and it is considered by them to be also the child of Naomi. That child will carry on the family name of Elimelech “God is King.” Ruth was true to God’s spirit. Is her life a contradiction of God’s word, or is it a paradox?

Ruth has a niche in the hall of Israel’s great because she was found “faithful in a very little” (Luke 16:10) in the way she met and overcame domestic crises. These can happen frequently in the everyday life of an ordinary private citizen. God doesn’t ask us to conquer the world, but He does require us to be faithful in what we have been given.

How can an inconspicuous believer, a convert like Ruth achieve the status of royalty? God combined her strange circumstances and a resolute obedience of faith to make Ruth the great-grandmother of Israel’s famous king David. Ruth thus became an ancestress to the King of Kings.

We are born again by faith. We all have to make a choice to walk with God. All we have to do is ask, and God will supply our needs. Ruth had been married and we are not told that her first marriage was unhappy, but she didn’t blame God. She set out to follow the new God that she had found through the marriage into the family of Elimelech and Naomi. She followed the suggestions of her mother-in-law. She had many choices. So do we. The choice to follow God is the best one we can make. It may not be easy, but it will be very fruitful.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for creating us in your image and for the love that you have put into our hearts. Help us to be faithful to You and let that love shine so that others may see that we share the love you have so freely given to us with others so they may know your love and care. Help us to make the choice to walk with You every day. Amen

1. Are we ever called to go into unfamiliar situations and tell others about our God? Do we do it willingly or do we buck and make others come to us first
2. Have you ever had to move to a new part of the country, city, or even to another land? How did you adjust? Were people kind to you? Were you kind to them? What did you do to help in this transition?

3. Can you show love to a family member that needs that extra hug?
4. Do we believe that God has a plan for each of us if we seek it?
5. Why was Ruth chosen to be an ancestor of Christ? Was it just a circumstance?

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