

## “Ruth – The Blessings of Following God”

Ruth 3-4

### Open:

- Elimelech, Mahlon, and Chilion = A picture of those who are casualties of living in the flesh.
- Naomi = A picture of those who get a second chance to live life by faith.
- Orpah = A picture of those who choose to live their life in this world.
- Ruth = A picture of those who choose to follow live for God.
- Boaz = The kinsmen redeemer [Jesus Christ]

### Tran: Review of “A Decision to Follow God”

- New Land
  - When we get saved, we receive citizenship to a new land. **Rev. 21:10-21**
  - When we choose to obey God and return home, we are choosing to return to the place of God’s blessings.
- New Lord
  - When we get saved, we are no longer slaves to sin, we receive a new Master. **Rom. 6:22-23**
  - When we choose to yield ourselves to the Master, we will reap the blessings He has to bestow.

## I. New Life

- When Ruth decided to follow God, she received not only physical blessings but she also started living a quality of life that was better than she could have ever imagined. (Ruth 1:16 / 2:12) Rom. 6:4 “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
- A. When we choose to obey God, we go from the joy of being a child of God to the blessings of being an obedient child of God. II Cor. 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- i. **Phil. 2:12** “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
  - ii. **Rom. 8:13-17** “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. [14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. [15] For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. [16] The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: [17] And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”
  - iii. **John 15:9-11** “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. [10] If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. [11] These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”
- B. When we choose to obey God, we can have the confidence of knowing that even when we mess up our life is not ruined and forgiveness is available. Jer. 18:3-6 “Then I went down to the potter’s house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. [4] And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. [5] Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, [6] O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.”
- i. **Rom 6:1-2** “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? [2] God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”
  - ii. **I John 2:1** “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”
  - iii. **Prov. 24:16** “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.”

## II. New Love

- When Ruth made the decision to follow God, she found a love like she had never known.

**Ruth 4:6-9** “*And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it. [7] Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel. [8] Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe. [9] And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech’s, and all that was Chilion’s and Mahlon’s, of the hand of Naomi.*”

- A. When we choose to follow God, we will find ourselves recipients of a selfless love. **John 3:16** “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*”
- i. **Rom. 5:8** “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”
  - ii. **Rom. 8:32** “*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”*
  - iii. **Gal. 2:20** “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*”
  - iv. **Eph. 5:1-2** “*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; [2] And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*”
- B. When we choose to follow God, we will find ourselves recipients of a genuine love. **I John 4:18** “*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*
- i. **John 15:13** “*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*”
  - ii. **Rom. 8:35-39** “*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. [37] Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. [38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”
  - iii. **I Cor 13:4-8** “*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, [5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. [8] Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*”

### III. New Lineage

- When Ruth made the decision to follow God, she became a part of a family she never thought possible.
  - **Ruth 4:16-17** “*And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. [17] And the women her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.*”
  - **Mt. 1:1-6a** “*The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. [2] Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren; [3] And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; [4] And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon; [5] And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; [6] And Jesse begat David the king...*”
- A. We were grafted in. **Rom. 11:17** “*And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;*”
- B. We were adopted. **Gal. 4:3-7** “*Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: [4] But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, [5] To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. [6] And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. [7] Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*”
- C. We have been translated into the kingdom of Christ. **Col. 1:12-14** “*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: [13] Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: [14] In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*”
- D. We have been made a part of the royal priesthood. **I Peter 2:9** “*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*”
- E. We are recipients of an incorruptible inheritance. **I Peter 1:3-5** “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, [5] Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*”

#### **Close:**

- Decide you’re going to follow God.
  - In Salvation
  - In Service
  - In Sanctification
- Decide you’re going to stay where God’s blessings are.
  - New Land
  - New Lord
  - New Life
  - New Love
  - New Lineage

### **II Cor. 5:17**

“*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”