

## Book of Ruth

### 1. Ruth 1

1) Observation: What was the reason for Abimelech's family leaving Bethlehem and immigrating to the region of Moab?

2) Interpretation: In Ruth 1:11, Naomi, who returned to her homeland after her husband and sons died, persuades her daughters-in-law to return to their own families by saying, "Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?" What cultural practice is she referring to at that time?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us):

- Why did Ruth, Naomi's second daughter-in-law, decide to accompany her to Bethlehem?
- If there has been anyone or any event that God used to awaken you to the knowledge of His goodness, share it with others.

3.2(God Meeting Us): Ruth identifies Naomi's people as her own and acknowledges Naomi's God as her own. When and how did you make a similar confession?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Leaving her homeland and going to the land of Judah, which rejected foreigners, was a significant decision for Ruth. While Naomi encouraged Orpah to return to her people and gods, Ruth's heart remained steadfast and even became more determined. Have you faced temptations that tried to discourage you during the process of deciding to follow the Lord? Share the state of your heart and the process you went through when making that decision.

3.4(God Inspiring US): Ruth went with her mother-in-law to Bethlehem and lived with her. After deciding to accept Jesus as your Savior, there must have been changes in your life. What changes have occurred in your life as you shifted from a self-centered life to a life of serving others?

4) Real Life Today: Naomi, whose name means "pleasantness" or "delight," says, "The Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty." She shows a posture of repentance and humility, accepting the sovereign work of the Almighty rather than resenting God. Look at your own life as you humbly accept the providence of the Almighty and honestly acknowledge your shortcomings and weaknesses before God and others. Share your experiences of living humbly before God and being honest about your faults and weaknesses before others.

## 2. Ruth 2

1) Observation: The second chapter of Ruth highlights Boaz, who lived in a spiritually challenging era, the time of the judges, and in an ungodly society. What kind of person was Boaz?

2) Interpretation: Boaz instructs his workers not to completely harvest the sheaves, but to leave some behind. What aspect of Boaz's character can be seen in this action?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): When it was time for the barley harvest, Ruth went out to glean in the fields, and by chance, she ended up in Boaz's field. This was not a mere coincidence but a provision from God. Share an experience when, unknowingly, you encountered an environment or a benefactor that God had prepared for you.

3.2(God Meeting Us): After hearing about Boaz, Naomi describes him as someone who "has not stopped showing kindness to the living and the dead" (Ruth 2:20). How magnificent and glorious is the title "one who does not stop showing kindness"? Ultimately, there is only one deserving of this title, and that is God alone. When and how did you realize that God is the one who never ceases to show His grace?

3.3(God Refinding Us): The society in which Ruth lived was ungodly, and her time was spiritually impoverished, akin to a spiritual famine. We can say that the age we live in is similar to the time of the judges. In such an era and society, how can we reveal God's character and live according to His will?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The era we live in is truly chaotic and spiritually impoverished, much like the time of the judges, where everyone does what is right in their own eyes. We often make excuses, blaming our circumstances and conditions for not being able to live a proper Christian life. However, the book of Ruth shows that even in an era of spiritual poverty, one can walk the path of faith. What aspects of your life need to change?

4) Real Life Today: How do you treat widows, foreigners, and the poor, like Ruth and Naomi, who are around you? How does your church or small group help them? And what kind of ministry should take place within the church?

## 3. Ruth 3-4

1) Observation: What instruction did Naomi give to Ruth when the barley harvest was almost finished?

2) Interpretation:

- When Ruth asks Boaz to "spread your garment over your servant" (3:9), what does it mean?

- Boaz says that Ruth has shown him kindness by her action (3:10, "you have not run after the younger men"). Why did he make such a statement?

### 3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Boaz became the redeemer of the family of Elimelech. In Israel, the practice of redemption was a provision of God's grace, ensuring that the family name continued without end. In what traditions or practices do you discover God's grace?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Ruth experiences the grace of encountering Boaz as a benefactor and continues the lineage of faith in God. Share how you have become a spiritual mother who bears children of faith.

3.3(God Refinding Us): Boaz informs Ruth, who requested him to redeem her, that there is a closer relative who should have the first opportunity for redemption. How do you think Ruth felt while waiting for the outcome, and who would ultimately become her husband? Have you had any experiences of eagerly waiting for important results? How did you spend your time waiting?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Those who dwell in God's grace do not waste the experience of encountering Him. Through God's grace, Ruth becomes a channel of faith, continuing the lineage that leads to the birth of the Messiah. What history has been accomplished through your encounter with God's grace?

### 4) Real Life Today:

- Becoming the redeemer of the dwindling Abimelech family, consisting of only two widows, would have required economic sacrifices. Furthermore, marrying the foreigner Ruth demanded social and spiritual sacrifices. However, Boaz did not consider the economic or spiritual losses that would arise from taking responsibility for the two widows. He showed deep compassion for the widows and a spirit of love for their souls. Who are the people whom you, your family, and your church should accept, help, and live with generously?
- Additionally, Boaz demonstrates diligence in handling all disputes and conflicts without acting unilaterally. Are there any tasks where you tend to overlook them hastily, thinking that it's enough if things are generally good? What is the task you should handle diligently and neatly?