

Meditations from the Book of Ruth Part 2

We will continue in this message what we had started meditating from the book of Ruth about the family of Elimelech. What is remained from this family is Naomi and her two daughters in law after the death of her husband and her two sons.

“6 Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.” (Ruth 1:6 KJV) Naomi as if now repented and started to think in a Godly way, and might also put in her mind what Paul had stated to Timothy of how to handle young widows because now she has two young widows in her house. When we repent the Holy Spirit will send His Word to us to inspire us to do what is right and to do things according to His will. Let us read what Paul instructed Timothy about the young widows: ***“11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; 12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some are already turned aside after Satan.” (1 Timothy 5:11-15 KJV)*** Paul made it clear that the dedication of widows to Christ should be stronger than to marry. That is especially true if they have children, because they need to raise up their children in the fear of the Lord and make them disciples for Jesus. But young widows, ***“Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.” (1 Timothy 5:12 KJV)*** would be tempted and overcome with their sensual desires that would ultimately overcome their sincere dedication to Christ. Younger widows may also end up of moving from place to place to gossip and speak unnecessary things and would ultimately turn away to follow Satan. Because of all these temptations that we mentioned Paul said the following about younger widows: ***“I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” (1 Timothy 5:14 KJV)*** What Paul suggested to them is not the perfect will of God for them and not the ideal things for them to do, especially if they have children, but that is only to make them avoid falling into the sin of immoralities. But marriage and having children and having husband over them will not make their lives easier but another burden and another struggle and that is a discipline to them for their wrong decision to get marry out of the will of God.

In fact it is not easy to judge and decide about the remarriage of a widow because there are much factors needed to be considered before this issue to be settled. Here in our discussion about the marriage of Ruth to Boaz there was a valid Biblical reason for this marriage and that was to restore the family line and to handle the inheritance and to resume the ordained ministry of the Lord, and that especially true and convenient because Ruth was without children.

“4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.” 5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.” (Ruth 1:4-5 KJV) Orpah was the wife of Chilion, and the meaning of

the name is ‘gazelle’. She might be fast in running, or she was beautiful that is why her name was Orpah, or she might be having beautiful eyes for the gazelle have beautiful eyes with a black shadow around like makeup. Orpah was the first one who left her mother in law. *Women, beautiful with makeup, but without commitment, and early and easy to run from responsibilities, hardships and trials are useless. Those who are lazy and run away from the house chores are useless.* Those who are running away from washing dishes, away from washing clothes, away from cleaning the ground, and cooking are useless. Or may be she was fast running for parties and window shopping, etc. Yes I am speaking about you if you are as such a woman. *In regard to preparation for Godly marriage, useless the makeup and the beauty of the woman, but what is needed is commitment, hard work, faithfulness, stewardship and willingness to go along God’s will and suffer in obedience to God.*

Some time people they will ask God why they don’t not have blessings, they need to see their attitude that is blocking the grace of God. Orpah we are aware that she left back the hardship and the responsibility for Ruth to do. Orpah was not smart, because the one who finally blessed was Ruth with eternal life and with ministry. People like Orpah are only after material blessings and not after spiritual blessings. People like Orpah are good in talents, smart, and with Charisma but what the use of that if they are not willing to go along the hard work and commit themselves to go along the will of God. You find them on facebook, tweeter, instagram, and in the rest of the social media but they are lost in the work of the house; but they will put the work on maids or on their husbands. *Life are filled with on spot quizzes and God is watching from above of how we are behaving, and He is scoring us based on how we behave and act with the people and the circumstances that God is allowing us to pass through.*

The meaning of ‘Ruth’, the widow of Mahlon is ‘friendship’. Friend in need is a friend indeed. Ruth was faithful friend toward her mother in law. She remained cleave to her and did not leave her but she stayed with her, traveled with her, and worked to support herself and her mother in law. Such kinds of women are needed in preparation for Godly marriages. Unfaithful woman they will leave the man when he is sick, old, or when he became poor they will try to break their commitment. They will eat the flesh and they will throw the bones. Not only the women but the men also need to be faithful. The unfaithful men will leave the woman when she is old (Put in your mind old is gold), when she is sick or because she cannot bear children, and that is not good. Yes I am speaking about the men that they need to be faithful to their wives. *Husband and wives should behave as friends to one another. God wants men and women prepared for marriage to be faithful to their marriage and to their partner.*

Naomi had in her house two widows of her two sons who died. Both of them are young and without children. Therefore when she decided to go back from Moab to Bethlehem, although both they wanted to go back and stay with her, she was not willing to take them because she put in her mind the possibility for them to remarry and get settled in another man’s house. Both of them were non believers and Naomi would not like to take them with her and bear this responsibility of them to remarry.

“7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.” (Ruth 1:7 KJV) Life puts us in front of roads and causes us to separate from close people. *What a painful moments*

that we need to bear as we go back to God; not the pain of the journey that is ahead of us but the pain of the separation from the close friends. I am seeing tears falling down from the eyes; three people were together, living together, Naomi, Ruth and Orpah, cooking together, eating together, loving each others, but as one of them decided to come back to God there will be separation, and that separation would cause us pain. This is one of the painful moments that we would need to face, that close friends and the time had come to them to depart, not because of the different plans that God had for them but for the differences they have in their minds toward God. * But certain times we cannot judge, whether it is a different mind or a different plan, but we are aware that we need to separate. * We ought to be aware that if we cannot win their mind then we cannot force them to go with us, even in the right way. Better to let them go and suffer so they can discover themselves the right way and come back themselves to the Lord.

The following was the discussion and the sermon of Naomi to her two daughters in law, Orpah and Ruth, at the road of going back to Bethlehem, and the outcome and what we can learn and conclude from what had happened:

“8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.” (Ruth 1:8 KJV) Good method for Naomi, in a friendly and right way she thanked them for their kindness to her and to their husbands. It is good to thank people for the good things they did and send them in peace so yourself will have peace and not to trouble yourself. Naomi also gave them the option to go back peacefully to their mothers’ houses, and in such she wished them good and gave them the free choice to decide for themselves. Why she behaved in such a way?

- She did not want to take their responsibility
- She did not want them to suffer what she is going to suffer and what she is going to pass through
- She did not want to force them to do things they are not willing to do
- She was testing them to find out what was really inside them

Naomi with such a sermon she had the wisdom of God.

“9 The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.” (Reth 1:9 KJV) She wished them good, to find rest and peace in their lives, and she gave them the clue that they have the option even to remarry.

“Then she kissed them;” to express her deep love to them and her appreciation to their presence and their impacts in her life ***“Then she kissed them;”*** By such she announced to them and to us now that here is the place that we need to make our commitment and declare whom we will follow to the rest of our lives on earth. Judah kissed Christ and went to follow the devil.

“Then she kissed them;” At that time they didn’t have COVID 19. But when God saw people hugging, embracing, and kissing one another out of betrayal, then that was the time for COVID 19 to come. People hug and kiss and say my brother and my sister but they are

hiding knives to attack. That is why COVID 19 came with distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, no hugging and no shaking hands.

“And they lifted up their voice, and wept:” A fountain of emotion that needed to be released at that time. Long time and years of living together and memories and history and moments remembered, but all need now to be buried at this road to Bethlehem. ***“And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.” (Ruth 1:10 KJV)*** Here was their first respond. Both of them they ascertained to her that they will go back with her, and they assured her by their talk that her people will be their people. But we are aware that only Ruth was truthful but Orpah hurriedly changed her mind. How this will be detected or approved its genuine? Naomi spoke to them the second time so that their motive will be revealed:

“11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?” (Ruth 1:11 KJV) She told them to go back again to their mothers side and she told them the truth that they should not expect from her to give them husbands. She hit the important point that is sensitive in their lives.

Now, here we are in the sermon, don’t expect to follow God with me so that you will receive material blessings from me; and I am not here to promise you as such. Life realities needed to be addressed now and in a clear way. The sermon of Naomi was a bull eyes and was able to reap a harvest.

I. Naomi put emotions away and used the Word of God in addressing them with the life reality: Both of them, Orpah and Ruth were non-believers, and she told them clearly to go back each to her mother’s house, so they might find a husband and have a new family. They were crying and wanted to go back with her, but she made it clear to them, if they really wanted to go back with her they need to hear and admit the following: ***“12 Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons; 13 Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.” (Ruth 1:12-13 KJV)*** Naomi made it clear to them that if they will go back with her then they should not put her responsible to arrange for them marriages. The purpose of Naomi in giving this sermon to them is to differentiate who among the two is of genuine motive to follow God and abide with the perfect will of God and stay with her.

II. Naomi exhortation was fruitful: Orpah left her, but Ruth remained with her ***“And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.” (Ruth 1:14 KJV)*** Very clear that Orpah her focus was about marriage. Every now and then God will do something to find out who are the real people who are coming to Him and for Him alone, and not for other things. Many people they will come to church or pretend they are following Christ but they have ulterior motive and they are not coming after God. Naomi’s message to her two daughters in law, with the fruit that brought up was what the writer of Hebrews wrote: ***“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12 KJV)*** Naomi became aware that Orpah was not genuine in her motive and that is why she left her.

III. Naomi further tested the genuine motive of Ruth: Naomi further tested Ruth and challenged her to go back as her sister in law, *“And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.” (Ruth 1:15 KJV)* Ruth showed her genuine motive that she is after the God of Naomi and she is coming back with her Mother in law to care for her mother in law and nothing in her mind about marriage: *“16 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: 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.” (Ruth 1:16-17 KJV)* Ruth was really with genuine faith and she was after God; her desire was to do God’s will. She was able to see God that He is able to bless her, therefore, she insisted to go back with her mother in law to care for her. Ruth here received the God of Naomi as her God, and what was in the mind of Ruth is to care for her old mother in law and that is her faithfulness toward God in caring for the old widow, Naomi. In this, Ruth fulfilled the Word of God that says: *“3 Honour widows that are widows indeed. 4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. 16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.” (1 Timothy 5:3-4, 16 KJV)* Ruth proved her faithfulness toward God and toward Naomi with her clear and decisive decision to go back with Naomi. Ruth was obedient to the law of God that the Lord had placed and had written in her heart, *“14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.” (Romans 14:14-15 KJV)* Ruth truly can be considered as a true worshipper of God who worships God in Spirit and truth, *“23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24 KJV)* *True worshipper of God are not only good in praise and worship, in church attending, and in prayer but they have a genuine stand that is based on the Scriptures and what the will of God dictates on him or on her to do.*

The way that Naomi challenged Ruth is the same way that Jesus challenged the twelve disciples when the rest of the disciples left Him; *“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?” (John 6:67 KJV)* But Simon replied to Jesus in a proper way, *“Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68 KJV)* Ruth when she was challenged by Naomi to leave her, she answered her similar as Peter answered Christ, *“16 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: 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.” (Ruth 1:16-17 KJV)* Ruth was aware about the righteous life that God wants her to live for Him. God had called her and she responded to God’s call and she was willing to do in accordance to His will.

My dear and beloved: Now, Notice:

- In life there are testing posts, once you pass successfully from these posts you become eligible for God’s blessings.
- Don’t entice people with what you have, but put in front of them the difficulties that they will be passing through if they will choose to go with you to obey God. In this way you will find out who is the genuine person that God had called to be with you. *I met many Orpah in my life, and I discovered them when they come to know the troubles that I was passing through. People should not be attracted with what we can do to them, but they should be attracted with what God can do to them as they decide to come back to Him and follow Him.*

“18 When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her. 19 So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?” (Ruth 1:18-19 KJV) Such kinds of people that God would expect to see; not that we are pulling people from their ears, but people we are pushing away, but they still delight to come back and serve God with us, who are willing to suffer the journey of travelling from Moab to Bethlehem, a journey of ten days, mountains and with the dangers on the way but are still willing to serve Him. It is not only God will make the journey possible but our commitment to bear with God and follow His ways is also important. This time I encourage you to come back from Moab, to return from sin, start to think right and come back to the house of God and back to the ministry and to the calling of God and what He needs you to do to serve him.

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for the teaching that I had received from your Word, and the rebuke that I received in this message that made my faith sound. Lord I repent from the following sins _____. Lord I renounce worldliness, doing my own will, selfishness, unfaithfulness, departing from you, non willingness to suffer, taking my own decision and my non willingness to serve you and escaping my responsibilities.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I received from your Word. Lord I am going back to you, to your word, to your will and to the plan that you had ordained for me. Lord gives me more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to have the character and the attitude of Jesus in my life. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit to go and preach your Word and to evangelize and to reach new people and to disciple them.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to the principle of this message of yours and humble themselves before you to obey and apply your Word in their lives, Lord bless them, give them more grace, Lord comfort them, lift them up, care for them and reward them in due time.

Lord I pray that you will help us as a church; Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit so that we can go and evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord fulfill your vision to the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory, let your hands be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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