

## *Meditations from the Book of Ruth Part 14*

We will continue in this message what we had started meditating from the book of Ruth.

***“10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.” (Ruth 4:10 KJV)***

Boaz said about Ruth, ***“Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife.”*** The Hebrew Word for ‘purchased’ is ‘Kaw-naw’, which means to get, acquire, buy, or to possess. **The meaning of it can imply the following: That husband should pay for his wife. It might mean that he needs to pay for her a dowry to get her, or it might mean that he should work out to deserve to receive a wife.**

In regard to preparation for Godly marriage, man need to prepare himself for marriage, and the prudent wife is a reward from the Lord. Let us read this Scripture: ***“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.” (Proverbs 18:22 KJV)*** The favor of God will be given to the man who fear Him and obey His Word and prepare himself as God ordained to have a Godly family. ***“House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.” (Proverbs 19:14 KJV)*** \* God will not give the wife unless the man is well prepared and He is willing to pay the price of her and to do what is due for him to do. \* According to the Word of God the woman is the body of her husband, and the husband is the head. So when the man purchases his wife, and earns her from the Lord she became his body and he became her head.

Paul said about marriage, ***“For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.” (1 Corinthians 7:7 KJV)*** \* Paul described marriage as a kind of gift from God and that is true; marriage is a gift and reward from God to those who are doing good in their preparation for Godly marriage. \* Marriage in the Scripture is a reward for those who prepare themselves for what is due for them to do. Marriage is a gift that is earned and man should be prepared and do his part toward God and toward God’s Word and toward the family that God is going to give him.

**Marriage cannot be initiated based on good wishes or emotions.** Simply you cannot rash and eat-in restaurant without paying for your food. You cannot ride an airplane without paying in advance for your ticket. You cannot stay in a hotel without paying for your room.

You must earn your marriage! The following are good examples to grasp this concept of marriage that the Scriptures portray:

***I. Adam: “19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of***

***the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:19-20 KJV)*** The Lord before He made and brought the woman to the man, asked Adam to give names to all the animals and the birds. That is not an easy task. So many types and species of animals and birds; it would probably took months or years for the man to do that. Sure, he needed to be organized and systematic in giving names and in recordings. That is how Adam purchased his wife. And when he was done and achieved that, the Lord made the woman and brought her to the man. **So there was a period of preparation and testing for the man and he needed to achieve certain things before he will be rewarded with his gift, a wife.**

***II. Jacob: “15 And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? tell me, what shall thy wages be? 16 And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. 18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. 19 And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. 20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. 21 And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.” (Genesis 29:15-21 KJV)*** Jacob served seven years for his wife, Leah. He was not rewarded with a wife unless he finished the seven years of service.

***III. Joseph: “And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:45 KJV)*** Joseph was rewarded with a wife after he showed his prudence and wisdom in giving a good plan to make a reserve of food to save the country from the coming seven years of famine. Joseph served Pharaoh and the country of Egypt with the wisdom that God gave to him.

***IV. Moses: “16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 18 And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? 19 And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. 20 And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. 21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.” (Exodus 2:16-21 KJV)*** Moses was content to stay with the priest of Midian and to work as a shepherd for him, and Moses was rewarded with a wife when the man gave Moses, Zipporah his daughter to be his wife.

***V. Othniel: “12 And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife. 13 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it: and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife.” (Judges 1:12-13 LKV)*** Othniel was rewarded with a wife when he responded to the call of God and smote Kirjathsepher and took it as an inheritance for the tribe of Judah. **Serve God and He will give you the perfect man or the perfect woman that will be suitable to you.**

***VI. Boaz: “10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead***

*be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.” (Ruth 4:10 KJV)* Boaz was rewarded by a wife when he was willing to buy the land and pay for it and in that he deserve to possess Ruth as wife and in paying the price of the parcel of the land to buy what was Elimelech’s, Chilion’s and Mahlon’s, *“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.” (Ruth 4:9 KJV)*

**VII. David:** *“22 And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king’s son in law. 23 And Saul’s servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king’s son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? 24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. 25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king’s enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king’s son in law: and the days were not expired. 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king’s son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.” (1 Samuel 18:22-27 KJV)* David was a poor man and has not so much money, but was rewarded with a wife after he slew two hundred Philistines men.

God will give a wife and bestow His favor on an obedient man who is willing to listen to His Word, to abide in His instruction, and persevere in doing His will. As well as God will let you purchase a wife in the way that you can.

In *Acts 20:28* Paul said, that Jesus Christ purchased the church of God with His own blood, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28 KJV)* Jesus paid the price for His wife, His bride, His church, who are we, when He purchased us when He shed His blood on the cross for us. Jesus purchased us with His own blood, therefore, we as church and workers in His vineyard we need to be faithful to Him.

Wife is a precious thing belongs to the Lord, and He gives her as gift to her husband who prepared himself in Godly way for marriage.

*“11 And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem.” (Ruth 4:11 KJV)* Here the people of God they were the witness for such a Godly marriage. In the New Testament, the Godly people in God’s church are the witnesses of the Godly marriages that God ordained in His church. Yes, we are the witnesses of the grace of God in starting and forming new Godly families to raise up Godly children. **Forming Godly families through Godly marriages are the miracle of God that He is doing in the life of His church and His people. And we thank the Lord**

for such wonderful work of Him in our lives and in the life of His church and His people. Let us celebrate such gifts of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

We as Church of God we don’t approve, celebrate or witness marriages that are not ordained of God. We don’t entertain them because they are against God’s will. Here Boaz was able to marry Ruth and got the approval of the elders and the people of God because He was following and doing God’s will, and He presented clear evidences that God had initiated such a marriage to take place. \* We in the same way as Church of God, we need clear evidence that God had arranged a marriage. We cannot go along, such stories, ‘Long time we love each others, long time we are waiting for each others’, or ‘I saw her and I love her’; all these things and stories are not the scenarios of God to bring a man or a woman into a marriage, and will not appeal to us as a Church of God. \* We cannot approve and go along stories like how Jacob pushed hard and without thinking and humility to marry Rachel. We are not like Laban who approve such and cause Jacob to commit adultery in his second marriage just to keep him and gain profits and benefits from him.

They told Boaz the following: *“The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel:”* Here the wishes of the people of God, that Ruth will be like Rachel and Leah, does not mean the Word of God approve the second marriage of Jacob from Rachel. God will not contradict what He said in His Word. But they meant is that Ruth will be working to build the house of Boaz as Leah and Rachel built the house of Jacob. We are aware how God put Rachel to death in the delivery of her second child to set Jacob free from such adultery of second marriage, and as we are aware that Rachel was buried in Ephratah, *“16 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. 17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. 18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. 19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. 20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave unto this day.” (Genesis 35:16-20 KJV)*

They also told him: *“and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:”* They wished Boaz that the coming of Ruth in His life as a prudent wife from the Lord will make Boaz worthy man in Ephratah which is the same of Bethlehem; for these two names of one and the same place as we read here, *“And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.” (Genesis 35:19 KJV)* *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2 KJV)* These words seem to be directed to Boaz, particularly the people witnessing his marriage, praying that he might continue to do worthy and virtuous actions, as well as increase in wealth and riches, power and authority, and retain his name and fame, and grow in credit and reputation among his fellow citizens. God sure will bless the man that fears the Lord.

**My dear and beloved:** If we want God to be with us to be our shelter, our provider, our help in times of need, then we need to obey God and His Word, and the instruction that He is sending to us, so we will be under His full blessings. Therefore, let us apply what we learned from the message, and apply carefully in our lives. Let us pray.

**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 thank you for your Word and all what I learned in this message.*

*Repent and renounce all your sins. Also ask God forgiveness for being non following to follow the Word of God in regard to preparation for Godly marriage, taking such important matter lightly and doing your own and not God's will.*

*Lord I pray for my brothers and sisters who committed themselves to the principles of this message, Lord guide them and lead them into the good plan that you have for them. Lord help them to achieve your purpose in their lives. Lord I pray that the purpose of sending this message be accomplished in the life your church and your people, and that you will initiate new Godly marriages and new Godly families to be started.*

*Lord bless us as a church and help us to implement your Word and the teaching we received in this message. Lord lead us to teach, admonish, and prepare Godly men and women for Godly marriages; that they will be waiting for you to give the Godly partner that you had prepared for them. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and lead us to evangelize and make new disciples, and 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.*

Meditation from the book of Ruth Part 14. Ruth 4:10. Proverbs 18:22. Proverbs 19:14. 1 Corinthians 7:7. Genesis 2:19-20. Genesis 29:15-21. Genesis 41:45. Exodus 2:16-21. Judges 1:12-13. Ruth 4:9.1 Samuel 18:22-27. Acts 20:28. Ruth 4:11. Genesis 35:16-20. Genesis 35:19. Micah 5:2.

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