

Meditations from the Book of Ruth Part 16

The Five-Folds Ministry

We will continue in this message our meditation from the book of Ruth.

“17 And the women her neighbours 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.” (Ruth 4:17 KJV)

Obed: The meaning of Obed is ‘servant’, or ‘serving’. He should be raised in the fear of God and to serve the Lord for he is God’s servant. **Our children that are born to us they are God’s servant.** Here now we can discuss how our families can be effective in making our children disciples for Christ. This will lead us to speak about the five offices ministry that we read in Ephesians: *“11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” (Ephesians 4:11-16 KJV)*

The gifts of Jesus to His church when He ascended, *“11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;” (Ephesians 4:11 KJV)* these five spiritual gifts have a great impact on the life of the church and the families and the members of the church. The following is a brief description of each one of these spiritual gifts or office:

A. Apostles: Are the Apostles of Jesus who laid the foundation of the New Testament church. The meaning of apostle is sent by God. Their ministry accompanied by signs and wonders. **We, the current disciples who continue to lay the foundation of the church are not apostles but we are doing and continuing the apostles’ ministry.**

B. Prophets: Who declare the whole will of God and what is going on to happen to those who obey and to those who disobey.

C. Evangelists: Who bring the message of salvation to those who did not yet hear the message about Jesus and exhort them to repent and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, and His work on the cross as the only way for their sins to be forgiven and for them to be saved.

D. Pastors: Who lead the sheep, feeding the flock and make them go through green pasture and guide them in their lives and protect them and bring them away from dangers.

E. Teachers: Who precisely give the meaning and the application of God’s Word in the Holy Bible, and they are strict to implement the teaching.

Now we need to take these five gifts or offices and make them fit and applicable in the life of the church. The church is composed of members who interact with one another. And the smallest possible unit in the church who interact with one another is the family. And from this point of view, the family would have these five spiritual gifts and implement them in their family life.

A. Apostles: The family, in particular, the parents with the help of the church that they are part of will implement the foundation of the apostles’ teaching in their family.

B. Prophets: The parents will function as prophets to declare to their children the whole will of God. To their obedient children, they will declare to them prosperity and a good future, but to their disobedient children, they will declare failure and deterioration unless they will repent.

C. Evangelist: The parents will function as evangelists to declare the message of salvation to their new children who did not yet hear the message about Jesus and exhort them to repent and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and His work on the cross as the only way for them to be saved.

D. Pastors: The parents will lead their children into a green pasture, feeding them with the Word of God through daily Bible reading, kneeling down and praying inside the family, and making them go through a green pasture by guiding them in their lives, providing for them, and protecting them and bringing them away from dangers.

E. Teachers: Parents should precisely give to their children the meaning and the application of God’s Word in the Holy Bible. They should be strict with their children and discipline them so that God’s Word in full will be applied and implemented in their lives.

The family is the place that these spiritual gifts will operate to raise Godly generation and make new disciples of their children, to be the future servants of God. Parents and grandparents, uncles and aunties when are present together inside the family they are needed and should work together for one mission and in one mind and direction to raise Godly children, and the church should continually impact every family member and remind them of the calling that God had placed on their lives to raise Godly generation. The fruitful experience of every member of the family with God should be employed for that purpose. As we start to serve the Lord our life shall be restored to the original and the great plan that God had for us and all our children should be serving the Lord and taking part in the plan of God that He has for them.

From this new family atmosphere of Boaz, Ruth and Naomi, we will look into some application of the message to make it easy to grasp, digest, and apply.

Now, Going back to the five spiritual gifts that we discussed previously earlier, those who will be responsible to prepare and train Obed in his family, ***“For the work of the ministry.”***

(*Ephesians 4:12 KJV*) are Boaz, Ruth, and Naomi. The three of them, in the family, had a great experience that would be imparted to Obed and would mold him to be God's servant.

1. **His mother, Ruth:** With her joyous experience with God and His love, she will be the first one to tell him about God, evangelizing him with God's Word and commands. While mothers giving the milk and carry their children they will tell their children little by little about Jesus.

2. **His father, Boaz:** The pastor of the child, leading him, feeding him daily with God's Word, providing his needs, and guiding him. Boaz also is the teacher who is firm and stern with him to correct him and discipline him. Fathers should do the above rules for their children.

3. **His grandmother, Naomi:** With her painful experience of going away from the will of God and the suffering she exposed to, she can be a prophet to the child, foretelling him the future that God has a good plan for him, and he needs to obey God so that God's plan will come true. Naomi can foretell to Obed and speak forth the Word of God and warn him for his benefit when he disobeys to put him back into the will of God.

4. **The church:** The church that the family of Obed is part of, will back them up and help them to lay the foundation of the apostles inside the family.

At this moment we ought to praise God and give glory to Him for all that He had provided for us as families. Therefore, let us be more serious in caring for ourselves and for our families and the children that God had entrusted to us to raise them up in the fear of the Lord, and to be His servants in the future.

Let us also humble down before God and use the spiritual gifts that He gave us to care for our families and our children in the proper way, to be mature and perfect in attitude, characters and filled with the Holy Spirit, "13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (*Ephesians 4:13 KJV*) We ought to watch over our families and children and to protect them from the hands of the enemies who are trying to pull them out of the way; we should protect our children from the media and from the bad friends and relatives who might be used by devil to destroy the faith of our children, "14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." (*Ephesians 4:14 KJV*) As well as, we as a Church of God, need to commit ourselves to the spiritual principles that we learned, that we should care and look after each and every family in our congregations, and to be sure that the apostles' foundation is applied in each and every family, "15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (*Ephesians 4:15-16 KJV*)

* Parents should agree with one another and they should agree with the church and the church should agree with the Word of God. * In certain families we can find other

members are there for example, grandparents, aunts, daughter in laws, etc. These all must have one mind and one direction to raise the children in a Godly way based on the Word of God. The atmosphere in the family must be united. If the family decided 'No', then 'No.' If the family decided 'Yes', then 'Yes'. if 'Not allowed', then 'Not allowed'. Not that the father say 'No', the aunt or the grandmother say 'Yes', or the mother do not allow but the grandmother will allow; that will bring confusion and disobedience.

There is a question which says, 'Up to which age children should be under the care of parents and their supervision? Until the age of 18 years old, until their marriage, or after their marriage?' To answer this question let us ask this one: 'Up to which time people, and we among them, need to be under the care of the church? The answer: 'Until we meet the Lord or if He will tarry until we are buried.' So the children shall be under the supervision of the parents until the Lord coming, and if He tarries then until the death of the parents.

My dear and beloved: Let us now examine our ways and how much we are far from the Scriptures in our lives and service unto God especially in pertains to family life and to raise Godly children. Let us repent, come back and commit our ways to God and He will restore us and help us to follow Him in the narrow way that He ordained for us to pass through. Let us repent and commit ourselves to the principles that we learned in this message and apply them into our church and into the life of each and every family. Let us trust our good shepherd and obey Him, and He shall lead us into the narrow gates and provide all our needs and will protect us.

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. Lord forgive me the following sins _____ .

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 and in the lives of their families and children. Lord I pray that the purpose of sending this message be accomplished in the life of your church and your people, and that you will initiate discipline and disciple process starting in the life of each and every family.

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 and to train them to raise their children in a Godly way to be your servants. 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 16. The five-folds ministry. Ruth 4:17. Ephesians 4:11-16.

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