

SCRIPTURE: *Ruth 1:1-22; Luke 5:1-11; 27-32*

SERMON: *Ruth, the Disciple!*

24 October 2009

I. BIBLE: IN THE DAYS OF THE JUDGES (1:1; see Judges; e.g. 3:7-11; see Dt.30:1f)

A. REBELLION: BACK TO EGYPT IN HEARTS (1:1,2; see Dt.17:16; Acts 7:39; see 2Pt.2:21f)

B. RETRIBUTION: THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH (1:3-5; 19-21; see Rom.6:23a; Gen.19:17f,26)

C. REPENTANCE: RETURN TO GOD (1:6f,19f; see 1:6,7,22a,b; 2:6; see Mk.1:15; Acts 2:38)

D. RESTORATION: FROM FAMINE TO FOOD (1:1 to 1:22; see Rom.6:23b)

II. DOCTRINE: CONFESSION & SALVATION (1:16; see Rom.10:9; 1Cor.12:3)

A. RUTH, THE MOABITNESS (1:4,22; 2:2,21; 4:5,10; see Gen.19:35; Josh.24:9; Dt.23:4)

B. ENCOURAGED IN A NATURAL COURSE (1:6-14; see Ps.128; 1Tim.5:14)

C. COMMITMENT TO AN EXTRAORDINARY COURSE (1:15-18)

1. negative (16a) & positive (17b)

2. live (16b) & die (17a)

3. your people (16c) & your God (16d; see Ex.6:7; Jer.30:22)

4. summary: conversion (15/16c,d; see Acts 15:3,19; 26:17,18; Col.1:13; 1Th.1:9)

III. PRACTICE: IMITATE RUTH AND NAOMI!

A. GENTILES REJOICE! (Mt.1:5 (Josh.2:1f; Ruth1:4f) /Is42:6; 49:6; Jn10:16; Eph2:11f; Rom11:13f; Acts13:46f)

B. IMITATE RUTH! LEAVE EVERYTHING AND FOLLOW JESUS! (1:15/16; 2:12; see Rom.10:9; Acts 2:38; see Lk.5:11,28; 9:23f; 18:28f)

C. IMITATE NAOMI! LEAD YOUR NEIGHBORS IN FOLLOWING JESUS! (1:8f,15 vs. 1:6f; 9,10; 14(Dt.10:20; Gen.2:24); 15-17ff; see 2:2,19f; 3:1f(1:8,9); see Jn.1:40f, 45f; see 1Cor.4:16; 11:1; Phil.3:17; 4:9)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. What other book of the Bible is a primary reference for rightly understanding Ruth?
7. How is the fourfold cycle from this book evident in Ruth, chapter 1?
8. What about Ruth is frequently emphasized? Why?
9. Why did Naomi encourage her daughters-in-law to return to Moab?
10. What is striking about Ruth's commitment and how does the writer emphasize this?
11. What is the heart of Ruth's statement of commitment? How does this reflect God's covenant with Israel?
12. How *are* we like Ruth in terms of our natural circumstances?
 - a. How are we like Ruth in terms of God's gracious providence to us?
 - b. How should we respond to this?
13. In what way should we imitate Ruth? How can we do this? How should *you* do this?
14. In what way should we imitate Naomi? How can we do this? How should *you* do this?***