



## Gentle Ruth

And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; {6} And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias; (Mat 1:5-6)

Let us not forget the possibility of having a great impact on portions of ours or other's lives, we need to remember the story of gentle Ruth.

(Ruth 1:1-2) Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife,



and his two sons. {2} And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

The Judges ruled for many, many years because the people didn't want a King. They accepted only Jehovah as their King, and only yielded that privilege to a man if he was a Jew and if the situation

actually warranted it, for instance in time of war. Otherwise, this kind of leader was not desired or recognized. In these days, the mentioned famine caused Elimelech, who was too proud to ask for help from Boaz, to take his family into the country of Moab, where the famine was far less severe. Suddenly, very soon after they arrived ...

(Ruth 1:3) And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

Even though things were not off to a very good start, Naomi decided to stay. Her sons were old enough to help support the family and she felt it a good thing to abide in a land where,

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at least, they could eat. The famine still existed back home in Bethlehemjudah (Judah).

(Ruth 1:4) 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.

The family grew stronger and had grand expectations of living in Moab until the end of their days. Things were going fine until...

(Ruth 1:5) And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

Her sister lost her beloved husband Chilion and Ruth lost her husband Mahlon. Both had been stricken with some illness and had died within a very short time of each other.

(Ruth 1:6-7) 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. {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.

***Mother Naomi was bowed over with grief and decided to go back to Judah.***

But before she left the land, she told her daughters-in-law to return to their own homes in Moab.

(Ruth 1:8-9) 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. {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.

She asked them twice to stay in Moab, as was the custom, and Orpah did stay. In response to her again marrying and bearing more sons, Naomi said:

(Ruth 1:13-14) 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. {14} And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

But Ruth decided to return to Judah with Naomi. Notice that

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Ruth felt that the hand of the Lord was against her. This is generally how the Jews of that long ago time perceived negative situations. *They saw themselves as sinners and the sin was always the reason things went sour (when they did go sour).* But as we will soon see, this was not the case at all.

(Ruth 1:18) When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

Naomi tried, a third time, to convince Ruth to stay, but she would not hear of it at all. Finally, Naomi gave in and they returned to Judah.

(Ruth 1:20) And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

As I previously mentioned, Naomi firmly believed that she was cursed by God, that God was against her. She spoke this often, and even asked that people stop calling her “pleasant,” the meaning of Naomi, but start calling her “bitter,” the meaning of Mara.

They travelled back to Judah in the late summer, early fall, during the time of harvest. That was a good thing too. The weather was wonderful, and the chance to find free food was also abundant. *Ruth and Naomi were very poor, and owned no land, for Elimelech had sold his land before leaving for Moab.* Fortunately, these

destitute women could glean the grain fields after the workers had taken the grain because of a very wonderful law of God given by Moses. People who didn't own land owned the left over grain

during the harvest.

(Ruth 2:1-3) And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz. {2} And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. {3} And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

Boaz was related to Elimelech, was a wealthy man, and owned much of this land being harvested. Ruth went to harvest some of the left over grain from the field of Boaz. Well, people talk, and news spread quite fast about Naomi and Ruth. Boaz was well aware

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of their situation and understood his legal and moral obligations. He was second in line to care for them! Boaz had to come and personally check things out for himself and he did.

(Ruth 2:4-9) And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee. {5} Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this? {6} And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab: {7} And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house. {8} Then said

Boaz unto Ruth, Hearst thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: {9} Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

Boaz had lunch with Ruth as he discussed with her how to manage this situation. Boaz practically ordered her to glean from only his fields. He protected her by telling the young men to keep their hands off of her. And, he provided her with water while she worked. He was a wonderful man, very loving, very caring, and very responsible. Ruth was overwhelmed!

(Ruth 2:10) Then she fell on

her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

Ruth may have seen herself as a stranger, but God sure didn't. Spiritually, God was making sure that Jesus was going to be born. That's right. You'll see this in a minute.

(Ruth 2:11-12) And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been showed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. {12} The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD

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God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

The Judeans, far above the Israelites, held fast to the oracles of God. Boaz was a great believer who had not turned his back on God like so many others had done. What a refreshing man he must have been, and I'm sure Ruth also thought this to be so.

(Ruth 2:14) And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

Boaz ended his visit with Ruth over a nice lunchtime meal, and orders to his workers to provide even more grain than usual for Ruth. I'll bet that Ruth was completely enamored by this point in time and couldn't wait to

tell Naomi absolutely everything! Well, she did tell Naomi the whole story, and Naomi was elated with these unexpected and supremely glad tidings.

(Ruth 2:23) So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

She instructed Ruth on how to deal with this unfolding love affair (and, spiritually speaking, fulfillment of prophetic wisdom)! Ruth was soon to become wife to Boaz, and Jesus' birth was soon to be practically guaranteed. Keep in mind that Satan was forever trying to undo God's plans and stop this remarkable birth, but, in the end, we know the story – Satan was doomed to fail, and is now and always will be doomed.

(Ruth 3:4) And it shall be,

when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.

Next event in this unfolding excitement of man and wife union were Naomi's instructions to Ruth. She told her to plan on laying down with Boaz to sleep after he had had dinner and drunken a bit of wine. She cleaned herself up, put on a nice dress, and planned to follow these instructions.

(Ruth 3:7-9) And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. {8} And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a

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woman lay at his feet. {9} And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

As things go, Boaz went to sleep, Ruth laid herself beside him and lay awake waiting for what was to come next. At about midnight, Boaz stirred, and realized that a woman lay at his feet. He was afraid and said, "Who art thou?" That's when she asked him to accept her because she was a widow, his near kinsman, and fully expected to become his wife!

(Ruth 3:10-11) And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast showed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. {11}

And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

Of course, the neighbors had all been talking throughout this harvest event. Boaz heard all that he needed to hear because no one could say anything bad at all about Ruth. She was a virtuous woman! But there was one small problem. There was one other kinsman, closer to Ruth than Naomi than Boaz, and he had first pick of Ruth.

Well, to conclude this story, Boaz went to the men of the city to discuss this. It turns out that Boaz was able to marry Ruth, and also do one other fantastic act. He was able to purchase the land that Elimelech had previously sold. He purchased it back for Ruth and Naomi!

(Ruth 4:9) 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.

The rest is history, and grand history at that!

(Ruth 4:13-17) So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. {14} And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. {15} And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath borne him. {16} And Naomi

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took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. {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.

Gentle Ruth made the right decisions. Naomi stood with her in all of this and the outcome was felt by the entire universe. Jesus was born from this same bloodline! They made a huge impact on life, and so can we.

*Learn to go with the spiritually significant abundance of God's Word and you, too, can make a most remarkable difference during this age of Grace – wherein we witness the remarkable favor from God!*

(Mat 1:5-6) And Salmon

begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; {6} And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown