

Preparation for Godly Marriage
Part 8

In this message we will discuss the marriage of Boaz from Ruth the Moabites. Ruth was the widow of Mahlon the son of Elimelech. The story of the family of Elimelech was as the following: **“1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. 2 The man’s name was Elimelech, his wife’s name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. 3 Now Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.”** (Ruth 1:1-5)

So here the widow of Elimelech ended that she had in her house two widows of her two sons who died. Both of them are young and without children and with no responsibilities. And most likely Naomi had a good thought of them that ultimately they will have families with children.

She also would put in her mind what Paul had stated to Timothy of how to handle young widows: **“11 As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. 12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. 13 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to. 14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. 15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.”** (1Timothy 5:11-15) Paul made it clear that their dedication to Christ should be more strong 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. **12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge.** Young widows would be tempted and overcome with their sensual desires that would ultimately overcome their sincere dedication to Christ. Younger widow may also end up of moving from place to place and 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: **“14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.”** 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 only to make them avoid falling into sins.

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. In this message that we are going to discuss about the remarriage of Ruth to Boaz there was a valid biblical reason for this marriage and that was to restore the family and to handle the inheritance and to resume the ordained ministry of the Lord.

Naomi was at the cross road of this same particular issue. She 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 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 house. Both of them were non believers and Naomi would not like to take them with her and bear this responsibility and the critical issue of them to remarry. 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 of that meeting was as the following:

“6 When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. 7 With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. 8 Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. 9 May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.” Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud 10 and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.” 11 But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? 12 Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— 13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!” 14 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. 15 “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” 16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. 19 So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?” (Ruth 1:6-19) The following we can learn and conclude from the above Scripture:-

1- Naomi put emotions away and used the word of God in addressing them with life reality: Both of them, Orpah and Ruth were non-believers, and she told them clearly to go back to their mother 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 Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— 13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!”** She 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.

2- Naomi exhortation was fruitful: Orpah left her, but Ruth remained with her **“14 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.”** 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: **“12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”** (Hebrews 4:12) Naomi knew that Orpah was not genuine in her motive and that is why she left her.

3- Naomi further tested the genuine motive of Ruth: Naomi tested Ruth and challenged her to go back as her sister-in-law, **“15 “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people**

and her gods. Go back with her.” 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 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”** Ruth was really had genuine faith and she is after God and her desire is to do God’s will. What was in her mind was to care for her old mother-in-law and that is her faithfulness to God in caring for the old widow, Naomi, **“4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. 16 If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.”** (1Timothy 5:4, 16) Ruth proved her faithfulness to God and to Naomi with her clear and decisive decision to go back with Naomi. Ruth truly can be considered as a true worshipper of God who worship God in Spirit and truth, **“23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”** (John 4:23-24)

The way that Naomi challenged Ruth is the same way that Jesus challenged the Twelve when the rest of the disciples left him, **“67 You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.”** (John 6:67) But Simon replied to Jesus in a proper way, **“68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”** (John 6:68) Ruth when she was challenged by Naomi to leave her, she answer her as Peter answered Christ, **“16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”** Ruth was aware about the righteousness that God wants her to live her life. God had called her and she responded to God’s call in accordance to HIS will.

Ruth when she came back with her mother-in-law she started to work to earn her living and to support her need and the need of her mother-in-law. She worked as a gleaner in the field of Boaz as you can read, **“1 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband’s side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.” Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.” 3 So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech. 17 So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. 18 She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough. 19 Her mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!” Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. “The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” she said. 20 “The LORD bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsmen-redeemers.”** (Ruth 2:1-3, 17-20)

Elimelech had a field in Bethlehem and as he and his two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, died then one of his relative should redeem it. In the process that we described above God was testing whom of his daughters-in-law is faithful so she will be given in marriage to the kinsman redeemer who will buy the land. When Naomi challenged Orpah and Ruth that fact she did not reveal to them. She did

not tell them come back with me and we will find kinsmen redeemers who will buy the land and marry you. Naomi promised them nothing, because first she cannot predict the future and second their commitment to God and to the holiness of God must be proved first before promising them anything. So Ruth as she proved her faithfulness, she was fit to be rewarded by the Lord to have a family.

When Naomi observed how Ruth made her clear commitment to go back with her, and how she started to work to support the family needs and how she was led to work in the field of their next kinsmen, then Naomi realize and saw clearly the good plan of God to restore the family line of Elimelech. So she proposed to Ruth to find her a home and it went in this way as you can read:

“1 One day Ruth’s mother-in-law Naomi said to her, “1 My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. 2 Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. 3 Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don’t let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.” 5 “I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered. 6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. 7 When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. 8 In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet! 9 “Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer of our family.” 10 “The LORD bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. 11 And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. 12 Although it is true that I am a kinsman-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. 13 Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your kinsman-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.” 14 So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.” 15 He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town. 16 When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her 17 and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” 18 Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.” (Ruth 3:1-18)

4- Naomi proposed for Ruth that she will find a home to her to be well provided: **“1 One day Ruth’s mother-in-law Naomi said to her, “My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for.”** Marriage here is not to find a man for Ruth but to find her a home to live and to be well provided.

5- Naomi proposed and planned for Ruth to marry the right person: The right person whom Naomi is seeing now is Boaz, being a kinsman to them that he can marry Ruth and can buy the land from them, he is a man well to do, and God had directed the steps of Ruth to work in his field. Therefore Naomi was inspired to direct Ruth to approach him and give him notice that she is willing to marry him and to request him to do his responsibility to marry her, **“⁶ If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her**

husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. ⁶The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel." (Deuteronomy 25:5-6) The right person to marry the widow is the brother or one of the near relatives so the inheritance, the land, the children rights and the ministry in link to the church will be secured. For all these good reasons, if the widow needed to marry it is the responsibility of the brother or the near relative to marry the widow from within the family. ⁷However, if a man does not want to marry his brother's wife, she shall go to the elders at the town gate and say, "My husband's brother refuses to carry on his brother's name in Israel. He will not fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to me." ⁸Then the elders of his town shall summon him and talk to him. If he persists in saying, "I do not want to marry her," ⁹his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders, take off one of his sandals, spit in his face and say, "This is what is done to the man who will not build up his brother's family line." ¹⁰That man's line shall be known in Israel as The Family of the Unsandaled." (Deuteronomy 25:7-10) In link to the church and ministry there should be a right person (brother or sister in Christ) to marry the widow so the church and the ministry of the Lord shall be continued and secured.

Ruth was not looking for a rich man to marry. Ruth was young, Boaz was old, even he was calling her, 'My daughter,' ¹⁰"The LORD bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. ¹¹And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character." Ruth accepted to marry Boaz because she was a woman of noble character who wanted to do God's will.

5- Naomi witnessed the marriage of Boaz and Ruth and how God restoring her family line: "1 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. 2 Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. 3 Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. 4 I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said. 5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." 6 At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it." 7 (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) 8 So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal. 9 Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Chilion and Mahlon. 10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!" 11 Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. 12 Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." 13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he went in to her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. 14 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! 15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who

loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. ¹⁷The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David." (Ruth 4:1-17)

My dear and beloved: The Lord has always a good plan, and this plan will be unfold and come true only when those whom He call show their willingness to leave their own plan, surrender their lives to Him, and follow HIS plan. Meditate on the message and commit your life to apply His word in your life as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear word to me. I humble myself before you and before your command. Lord I repent of doing my own. I commit myself to abide with the principle of this message, to do my part and to wait for you to come and reward me. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

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