

Right Decision Brings Great Blessing

“May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God under whose wings you have come to take refuge.” (Ruth 2:12)

How awesome God is! He who bestows His blessing upon His people who decided to follow Him, and chose to obey Him rather than to pursue the vanishing things in this world. From a true story in the Bible we learn much about the grace and faithfulness of God especially to those whose heart's desire is to please Him and to give their lives fully for Him. The story is from the Book of Ruth, in the Old Testament of the Bible.

“In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.” (Ruth 1:1-5)

This was a painful event that we read but it did not end here; God is in control. He can restore and He can provide everything for us if we remain waiting for Him and trusting in Him all the days of our lives. Whether we are in sickness, in poverty, lonely in a foreign land, or sad and in distress because of certain trouble, we need not to worry because God is in control, and He comes to rescue us on time.

Later on Naomi, the mother in law of Ruth and Orpah heard that the Lord had provided His people a good harvest. So she and her daughter in laws prepared to return to Bethlehem. On their way Naomi told her daughter in laws to go back to their parents' home and gods. Then she kissed them good-bye. Orpah cried and kissed Naomi and went home, but Ruth clung to her and said, ***“Don't urge me to leave or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go; where you will I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” (Ruth 1:16)***

The right choice: Ruth was before with her family worshipping idols, but then she preferred to leave behind those false gods and decided to follow the true and the only God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Ruth made the right choice and the right decision to be with Naomi – to follow the living God all the days of her life and to live with the people who worship the true and living God. Ruth's right decision was a blessing to her, to Naomi and to all the people.

A – Ruth demonstrated a good example of love and faithfulness: She loved her mother in law and never agreed to be separated from her. This showed how love and faithfulness could flourish not only in human relationship but relationship with God. Ruth said to Naomi, ***“Where you die I will die and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.” (Ruth 1:17)***

B- Ruth showed a good example of diligence and humility: she decided to do a work that others may not accept to do. She said to Naomi, ***“Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.” (Ruth 2:2)*** God is pleased with humble people who can do work with low position. God blessed those people with such a behavior because God opposes the proud but gives graces to the humble. ***“All of you clothe yourselves with humility towards one another because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5)*** Humbleness, meekness and diligence make our lives easy and practical.

C- Ruth was rewarded by God: The Lord God repaid Ruth for all the good she did. He touched the heart of Boaz and he married her and she gave birth to Obed, the grandfather of King David. To the family line of King David, the Lord Jesus was born to earth bringing the gift of salvation to all who believe in Him and leaving an example how to live a holy life.

My dear and beloved: We hear many names and we see many people worshipping different gods. But there is only one way to reach God in heaven, the Father and Creator who sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who took our sins and died on the cross, was buried and raised from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life, and to everyone who believes in His name. In making any decision in life let us, ***“Trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not in our own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make our path straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)*** Let us be like Ruth who after knowing that there is a living God who is to be worshipped she never turned back to her idol gods. Instead, she decided to be with God and God's people and she received great reward. Taking the right choice and the right decision to follow God all the days of our lives and to do His will, we always come to Him in prayer.

“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died on the cross to give me eternal life. Lord, I commit myself into your hands. Make me humble, Lord. Guide me with your mercy and love. Give me wisdom to do your will and to follow You all the days of my life; acknowledging You in all my steps for You are the Lord who repay and reward men according to what they have done. Thank You, Lord Jesus.” Amen!