

Meditations from the Book of Ruth Part 4

We will continue in this message what we had started meditating from the book of Ruth about the family of Elimelech. In the previous message we had discussed how Naomi gave her message to her two daughters in law and how Ruth stayed with her but Orpah left her. Naomi and Ruth put their hope on God as they set their journey to go back to Bethlehem. Let us read chapter two of the book of Ruth.

“1 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. 4 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. 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? 11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed 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 God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. 13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens. 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. 15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: 16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not. 17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed. 19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz. 20 And

Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen. 21 And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest. 22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field. 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.” (Ruth 2:1-23 KJV)

“1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.” (Ruth 2:1 KJV) Mentioning Boaz here is a hope for Naomi and Ruth. *Certain problems we don't know how to be solved or we cannot imagine how God will restore or how God will answer our prayers, but revival will come true when the people of God take the decision to go back to God.* Here while reading the story of Naomi and Ruth coming back to Bethlehem, you may not know how they will be restored or comforted by the Lord, how they will be provided, or how God will work it out that their wounds will be healed and as family that had lost three men how will be restored.

But there is always hope in God and light at the end of the tunnel, when people come back to God.

The first step is to come back to God and He will make a way for you. Fix your agreement and your life with Him and He will do the rest for you.

The Word hope is repeated in Scriptures, and it means to trust in God that He will give the good things to His people who believed in Him and had put their trust on Him and who had obeyed Him. We can read some of these Scriptures here to be strengthened with His grace and would have hope on Him; the hope that will ultimately help us to continue to believe on Him, to obey Him, and to continue to trust on Him.

“Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons.” (Ruth 1:12 KJV) Naomi was without hope when she decided to go back, but as she repented of her sins, God now wanted to reward her and refreshed her. And here we read in the Scripture about her kinsman that was there in Bethlehem from the family of Elimelech as we read here, *“1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.” (Ruth 2:1 KJV)* and who helped them and was used by God to restore them. With God's help Boaz can redeem the land, can marry Ruth, can restore the family line, Naomi's joy can be restored and again children will fill her house.

The Scriptures are full of examples of what hope is for us today and how much we need to practice it in our lives as we live our lives to God. Let us go through the Scriptures and study the aspects of our hope.

A. *“1 Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore. 2 And*

Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing." (Ezra 10:2 KJV) At the time of Ezra when the sin of marrying non-believers was rampant among God's people, even the priests got involved with that, it was impossible to find a way out of that, but the solution of such dilemma was in the hand of God and that is why there was still hope in the God of Israel who can do good and great things. That is why Ezra came to God in prayer, fasting, confessing that sins, and asking help from God. *There is always hope when situations become even terrible, for God in whom we have hope can still solve such issues and cleanse His church, but we need to come back to God; we need to come in repentance, asking Him help and He will sure make a way for us and help us.*

Many times when I face certain situations that need to be changed or removed I pray and ask God 'Lord how long this will continue', and after a time I look and God had changed the situation.

We should keep our hope on God. As I am looking now to the vast number of idols that people and the churches of God are entangling with, there is still hope for them to be enlightened and be willing to come out from them all and repent? Yes with God there is hope. It will happen, and we need to trust Him.

B. "15 But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty. 16 So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth." (Job 5:15-16 KJV) In the book of Job stated that God saved the poor from the hand of people who are powerful. God saved the powerless from the hand of those who are powerful. * *So that is our hope today, that we had a God who can save us from injustice and from the hands of those who are cruel. When we are abused and are oppressed by injustice still we have hope in God that He can change the situation. * Many situations that you may pass through, you are facing hard people, more powerful and having more resources than you, but you should put your hope in God who can help you and deliver you from the hand of the mighty for the hope of the poor are in God.*

C. "8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope." (Psalm 16:8-9 KJV) David since he set the Lord before him, the Lord became at his right hand and that it means the Lord is there to help him and support him and provide his needs whenever that is needed. And that is why he determined not to be afraid and not be moved or terrified, but will be glad and rejoice, trusting that God will protect him and preserve him, therefore he decided to rest in hope.

"8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." (Psalm 16:8 KJV) For example if you say 'I have set my qualifications always before me', or 'I have set my money always before me', or 'I have set my friends always before me', or 'I have set my talents always before me', then you will have no hope in God and you will not receive any help from the Lord. *Hope in God will give us rest and peace.* I always say I have one friend and that is Jesus, who will help me wherever I am going; he will prepare people and situations to help me, aid me and solve my problems.

"8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. 10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." (Psalm 16:8-10 KJV) Prophetically, this message speaking about the Messiah that His flesh even after death, will rest in hope on God that He will not allow His body to see decay, *"Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope."* (Acts 2:26 KJV) Even for us today as we trust Christ for our salvation we are ascertained that after death our souls will be with God and our bodies will be transformed into glorified bodies when Jesus would come if we alive, and if we are dead then our bodies will be raised from the dead and be glorified bodies to meet the Lord.

D. Paul testified repeatedly about his hope in Christ that he will receive and experience the resurrection from death. Paul testified to the Pharisees and the Sadducees who were persecuting him, defending himself that because of his hope in the resurrection from the death he is called and questioned. "6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question." (Acts 23:6 KJV) His faith in Christ was his hope in the resurrection of the dead. *Our faith and believe on Christ and following Him is based on our hope on Him that our faith on Him will raise us from the death.* Paul also added in other occasion defending his faith: *"And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God, unto our fathers."* (Acts 26:6 KJV) Paul was testifying about his hope in the resurrection of the righteous to receive the reward, and the resurrection of the wicked to receive the judgment, *"And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust."* (Acts 24:15 KJV) *Based on that hope in Christ that there is resurrection of the righteous to eternal life, and resurrection of the wicked into eternal damnation, we live our lives in obedience to Christ and to His Word hoping to live eternity with Him and not to be condemned to hell.*

E. We live our lives on earth hoping in the mercy of God toward us who fear Him, "18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy. 22 Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee." (Psalm 33:18, 22 KJV) Our hope on God, make us fear Him that enable us to receive His mercy. Based on that, God had given His Word to His people that they need to teach to their children, who will teach to their children, so they can set their hope on God, showing that by obeying and not forgetting His Word, *"5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments."* (Psalm 78:5-7 KJV) *So here our hope in God is translated into our obedience to His commands that we read in His Word that teach us to live our lives in the fear of the Lord.*

Our hope in God is definitely based on our hope and our trust on His Word. Our fear of God and our longing for His salvation, are shown by our hope on His Word. **Psalm 119** is a good example for that to put our hope on the Word of God and on what He had said: **"49 Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. 74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word. 81 My soul**

fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word. 114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. 116 Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. 147 I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word. 166 LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments.” (Psalm 119:49, 74, 81, 114, 116, 147, 166 KJV)

My dear and beloved: In whatever situation you are now and what struggle that you are passing through, and whatever the power that is against you, put your full trust and confidence on the Lord. Repent of all your sins, come fully to him, start your journey back to God, put your trust on Christ and on His resurrection power and you will be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Don't be afraid and don't be shaken, God is with you and He will guide you out of your troubles and will instruct you step by step of what you need to do. The Lord shall continue to protect you and to provide for you and grant you favor, success and assurance along the way, until He will come to take us with Him to Heaven.

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 the salvation that I have in Jesus. Lord I thank you for restoring my hope, my faith and my faith on you through your Word that you sent in this message.

Lord I repent from the following sins _____. Lord I renounce worldliness, worries, fears, lack of faith, doing my own will, selfishness, unfaithfulness, departing from you, non willingness to suffer, taking my own decision and my non willingness to serve you and escaping my responsibilities.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I received from your Word. Lord I am going back to you, to your word, to your will and to the plan that you had ordained for me. Lord increases my faith in you and restore my hope in your Word and in all your promises. Lord gives me more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to have the character and the attitude of Jesus in my life. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit to go and preach your Word and to evangelize and to reach new people and to disciple them.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to the principle of this message of yours, who repented and came back to you. Lord restore them to the good plan that you have for them. Lord bless them, give them more grace, Lord comfort them, lift them up, care for them and reward them in due time.

Lord I pray that you will help us as a church; Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit so that we can go and evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord fulfill your vision to the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord helps us 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.

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