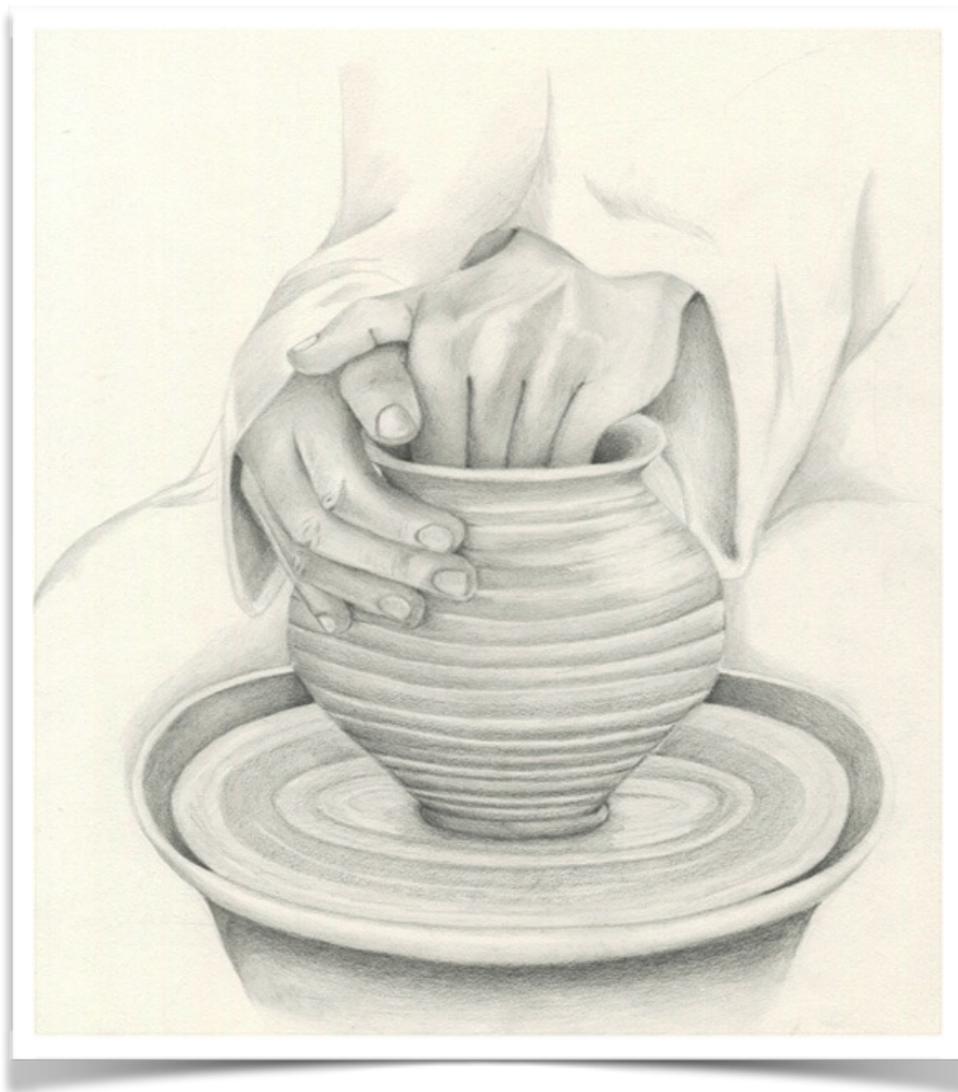


GOD'S WAY WITH



HIS SERVANTS

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Fusion, Fall 2014
Session 8
The Gospel of Ruth

Session 8 - Lessons from the Life of Ruth

First, let's review:

- ☑ Abraham - TESTING (Session 1 - Where, When) (Session 2 - How, Why)
- ☑ Moses - PREPARATION (3 seasons... God redeems and uses all of our experiences)
- ☑ David - HEART SHAPING (Trust and hope in God transcends external turmoil)
- ☑ Peter - RESTORATION (God redeems, transforms, restores & uses flawed, sinful people)
- ☑ Deborah - COURAGE (God gives supernatural victory to unlikely, surrendered people)
- ☑ Thomas - TRANSFORMATION (God transforms the heart & makes vessels fit for the Master)

Why Study Bible Characters?

Adam and Eve were disobedient blame-shifters. Abraham was a liar. Jacob was a schemer. Joseph had somewhat of the "I'm better than you" attitude. Moses made excuses. Saul was jealous. David was an adulterer. Solomon was the smartest fool in the history of the world. Elijah seemed to be somewhat bipolar. Peter definitely had "foot-in-mouth" disease. The list goes on and on. No matter your personality and struggles, there is someone in the Bible you can relate to and learn from.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Ultimately, that must be our goal when we study Bible characters. Where they were successful in following God, we are to emulate them. Where they failed, we are to avoid making the same mistakes.

"Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did...These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us...No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:6-13).

Now, let's preview:

- ☑ Ruth- REDEMPTION
(Everything we do in obedience to God, no matter how small, is significant)

Everything we do in obedience to God, no matter how small, is significant. It is part of a cosmic mosaic which God is painting to display the greatness of his power and wisdom to the world and to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places!

Why RUTH?

Why is this book in the Bible?

Why would an impoverished, Gentile woman from a nation of God's enemies get her own billing?

FOUR Reasons for the Book of Ruth

1) It teaches a great _____ lesson.

The continuity of the Biblical story are in the book of Ruth.

You have promises in the book of Genesis that the Messiah of God will come through the seed of woman

2) It teaches a great _____ / _____ lesson.

Ruth is known as a woman of excellence! (of _____ character - Ruth 3:11)

There is almost no area of moral greatness that you cannot assign to Ruth.

3) It teaches a great _____ lesson.

God will take those who believe, even those cast out & far from Him, & will elevate them in the family of God!

The name, Ruth is a take of the the word “Intimate Friend”

Who else in the Old Testament was known as a “Friend of God”

	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
Friend of God	Abraham / Ruth	Disciples
Beloved	Daniel	John

What is the great blessing of being close to God? Revelation of His person, His plans, His purposes!

4) It teaches a great T __ P __ L __ G __ C __ L lesson.

What is a “type”? It is an Old Testament pre-figuring of a New Testament Reality (a foreshadow)

Ruth is an Old Testament Type of the church!

SETTING & CHARACTERS

Israel is experiencing _____!

Under the covenant of the law, the only time Israel will settle under famine is during idolatry. (Lev. 26, Dt. 28)

Naomi is out of the land & seeking blessing apart from God. Never did Israel leave their land...

Thankfully, in His Sovereignty, God uses this rejection of the Jews to ingraft the Gentiles into the family of God and to restore His people as well!

Over and over we see great Jews rejected by their own, who reach beyond to the Gentiles and then is used by God to restore His people as well!

CHARACTERS

Elimelech - (God is King)

Naomi (prosperity, pleasantness)

Ruth & Orpah (Gentiles / Enemies of God brought in by marriage)

Mahlon and Chilion (puny & pining)

Because of sin, Naomi is dead to Elimelech, outside the land, and in great anguish...

Dead to "God as King"

Deported from the land

Depressed - a picture of Israel became puny and pining

Darkened in their plight

Despairing - She wanted to be called "bitter"

Initial thoughts about Ruth's Conversion:

1) _____! - Ruth makes a commitment to turn from her Gods to the true God from the witness of the Jews. That must be true of us!

2) _____ - The Sovereign promise of salvation, redemption, & reconciliation is not a promise of health, wealth, ease, and comfort!

Naomi says, "GO! ...I cannot give you any perks, I cannot promise you that everything is going to work out, it will be hard!"

3) _____ - Are we following the Lord whole-heartedly? Can we truly sing, "I surrender all"

The life of the godly is not a straight line to glory, but they do get there. The life of the godly is not an Interstate through Nebraska, but a state road through the Blue Ridge Mountains of Tennessee. There are rock slides and precipices and dark mists and bears and slippery curves and hairpin turns that make you go backwards in order to go forwards. But all along this hazardous, twisted road that doesn't let you see very far ahead there are frequent signs that say, "The best is yet to come." And at the bottom right corner written with an unmistakable hand are the words, "As I live, says the Lord!" ~ John Piper