



Conquering Canaan

Lesson 12: Ruth

(Ruth 1:1-4:22)

During the time judges were ruling in Israel (though we don't know exactly when), there was a famine in the land. A man named Elimelech left Bethlehem in Judah with his wife and two sons to stay in Moab for a while. His wife's name was Naomi. The names of their two sons were Mahlon and Chilion.

Then, after they came to Moab, Naomi's husband died. Her two sons married women from the Moabite people. One son married a woman named Orpah and the other married a woman named Ruth. But, after they had lived in Moab for about ten years, both of Naomi's sons also died. So, Naomi had no husband and no children. She only had her two daughters-in-law.

When Naomi heard that the famine in Judah was over, she and her two daughters-in-law started for Judah. Somewhere along the journey, Naomi told her daughters-in-law that they should go back to their home in Moab and find new husbands. So, Orpah kissed Naomi and went back. But, Ruth would not leave Naomi, promising to stay with her – and they traveled to Bethlehem.

Now, there was a well-known and good man who was related to Naomi's husband, named Boaz. After they had returned to Bethlehem, Ruth knew that she needed to gather food for herself and Naomi. So, she went into Boaz's field to gather what had been left during the harvest.

Whenever Boaz went out to see the people who were harvesting his field, he told them, "The Lord be with you" and they replied, "The Lord bless you" (Ruth 2:4). At this time, Boaz noticed Ruth and asked the man in charge of the harvesters who she was. After being told, Boaz talked with her and told her to continue

gathering grain in his field and said that she would be taken care of while she was there.

Ruth asked Boaz why he was being so kind to her, since she came from another place, but Boaz told her he knew about all the good things she had done and asked God to bless her. Ruth was thankful for Boaz's kindness and he invited her to eat with him. Boaz continued showing kindness to her, as she worked to take care of herself and Naomi.

When she brought a lot of food home with her, Naomi asked her where she had been and asked God to bless the man who had noticed Ruth. Ruth told her that she had been working with Boaz. So, Ruth continued living with Naomi and working close to Boaz's female servants.

Now, whenever a man died having a wife and no children at that time, a close family member would marry her. So, Naomi told Ruth to go to Boaz so he would take care of her. Then, Boaz told her that there was another man who could choose to marry her first. But, if he did not, then Boaz promised he would marry and take care of her.

Later, the man Boaz had talked about was told what had happened with Naomi and Ruth. But, he said that he could not take Ruth. So, the man asked Boaz to take her (and the property that belonged to Elimelech).

Then, Ruth and Boaz married and they had a son. His name was Obed. Naomi helped take care of the child and was a blessing to the family. Later, Obed would have a son named Jesse and Jesse would have a son named David. This is the same David who will also become king over Israel and will be a descendant to Jesus!

Study Questions:

1) Why did Naomi and her family move to Moab?

2) What happened to Naomi's husband and sons?

3) What were the names of Naomi's daughters-in-law?

4) Which daughter-in-law stayed with Naomi when she went back to Bethlehem?

5) Where did Ruth go to get food?

6) How did Boaz treat Ruth?

7) What did Boaz do for Ruth and Naomi?

8) Who was Ruth's son?

Memory Verse:

“May the Lord reward you for what you have done, and may you receive a full reward from the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge (Ruth 2:12).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: