From Loyalty To Royalty

Ruth Chapters 1-4

Have you ever wonder what it takes to get noticed in a crowded room of people pursuing the same things you are or to achieve success to your calling?

The Marketplace is teaming with gurus touting the secrets of success or the major sauce to achieve their dreams.

And while some of it may be useful, I can’t help returning to God’s Word for my answers.

The Book of Ruth provides invaluable guidance and is where we will glean some indispensible truths.

So let’s go on a trip this evening and let’s recap the context, key events and people that were involved in the Old Testament story, and let’s discover the key takeaways.

**First of all, We see 3 men, 3 deaths and 3 widows.**

Naomi, Elimelech (her husband) and 2 sons (Mahlon and Chilion) sought to make Moab their home after fleeing famine in Judah.

But Naomi becomes a widow in the land and within 10 years of her husband’s death, both sons also died.

Needless to say, Naomi, Orpah and Ruth experience tremendous loss.

Their husbands were dead. And in the Ancient World of their time, without the protective covering and provision of their husbands, there were doomed.

Naomi’s chose to return to Judah, Empty, Bitter and Broken.

Orpah departed to her hometown in Moab, but Ruth clung to her mother-in-law and declared “Where you go, I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and Your God, my God.” Ruth 1:6

**Ruth’s path wasn’t going to be easy**

In our day, you may say the odds were stacked against Ruth.

Widowed in her Prime, Childless, and a lowly foreigner.

By all accounts she had reason to bemoan her circumstances, but she didn’t.

Instead, she remained at the side of her mother-in-law persevering through hardship to eventually becoming a Woman of Great Renown.

I don’t know about you, But I am awed by Ruth.

**What compelled her to remain steadfast in the face of great trial?**

There is so much we can learn from her and apply it in our own lives today.

What can Ruth teach us about success?

What set her apart and got her noticed?

**There are 7 Outstanding Characteristics that I want to share with you that got Ruth noticed and secured her success.**

1. She was determined Verse 12-18.

To say Ruth was determined is an understatement.

She made up her mind to follow Naomi to Bethlehem and live amongst the People of God rather than to return to the land of her Father in Moab.

And as we read, Ruth was ready to put her life on the line to make it happen.

Naomi knew there was no changing of her mind so she stopped trying (Ruth 1:18)

I am challenged by the depth of Ruth’s determination.

Is there anything and you and I are so determined to pursue when turning back is not an option?

What have you settled in your heart with determination to pursue?

1. Humble

Being humble is often misunderstood as being weak or of low self-esteem.

In reality however, being humble or having humility is to think of yourself less often, and others more often.

You can seek to recognize the value of others and serve them first, without diminishing your own value.

The two are not mutually exclusive.

Ruth sought first and foremost to serve and support her mother-in-law which she did with great respect.

When she learned of the relative in whose field she would work, she did not set out to go to the field without asking permission of Naomi. (Ruth 2:2)

She went out without expectation of a hand-out.

But rather a heart disposition of submission so those in Authority and a strong work ethic.

And this did not go unnoticed.

1. Hard Working

Ruth was no slouch.

She worked from dawn to dust.

Every day during harvest season without complaining.

That was no small feat.

How many of us would have been able to keep pace with her?

The servant in charge of the reapers of the field

The men and young women working the field all witnessed her diligence and hard work.

Ruth did her work as unto God and not for the applause of others.

In the end, she reaped benefits that she could not have ever imagined. (Colossians 3:23-24)

1. Loyalty

Ruth was Naomi’s Ride or Die

Her fierce loyalty to her mother-in-law caught the eyes of Boaz,

The relative of Naomi’s husband.

He had heard of all she had done for Naomi since the death of her husband and 2 sons.

He also knew that she had forsaken the security of her own father and mother’s home to live among a people she didn’t know. (Ruth 2:11)

**Boaz was stirred**

He felt great respect for Ruth and sought to reward her kindness (Verse 12)

He gave clear instructions to his management team to make sure she was taken care of.

That she was protected while she gleaned.

That there was extra grain left for her to gather

And refreshments available when she needed to rest.

**Favor like, no doubt, to the FAVOUR.**

We as God’s beloved because from our Heavenly Father.

1. Kind

Ruth was selfless in her care for Naomi.

Her love compelled her to sacrifice all her welfare to her mother-in-law.

Toiling from dawn to dusk in the field to gather grain.

And when she took her short break during her long day to refuel

She did not hesitate to save a portion of her meal for Naomi so she could partake and be filled. (Ruth 2:14, 18)

1. Courageous

And this is where it gets interesting.

Upon the decision of her wise mother-in-law,

Ruth presented herself at the feet of Boaz on the Threshing Floor to ask her protection as her Kinsman Redeemer.

Spread your cloak over me for you are a Family Redeemer. (Ruth 3:9)

She risked rejection and ridicule with the hope to secure her future and the future of her mother-in-law.

She was obedient in the face of fear

And her obedience to the instruction given her was rewarded

Boaz understood her request and responded with praise for her kindness and virtuous character.

1. Faith-Filled. Ruth’s Faith was Active

What gave her that confidence?

She got it from The God-Like Surrender she saw in her mother-in-law. (Ruth 1:16)

She declared. (1:16)

She committed to Trust In Him

**GOD DOES NOT DISAPPOINT**

Throughout the unfolding of Ruth’s journey, His providence and intimate care is evident.

**As she takes action and exercises her faith, God orchestrate her arrival at the field of Boaz - The provision of Abundant Grain, Safety and Protection, Food to Eat and Ultimately, Marriage to Boaz – Her Kinsman Redeemer**.

And the birth of her son –

**The great-grand father of Kind David and descendant of our Redeemer Jesus Christ.**

Quite the Lofty List of Outstanding Characteristics that got Ruth noticed which led to her Success.

While we may exhibit these traits at varying degrees, we sometimes abandon them when our situation get too difficult.

When we do we miss out on the blessing awaiting us at the end of the journey.

God doesn’t demand perfection. Instead He deserves our willingness to be shaped and molded in His hand to become the person He has designed us to be.

Ask, How can I be more courageous or faithful as I pursue all that God has prepared for me?

Like Ruth, I can choose to be –

Obedient in the next thing I must do.

And even if I feel fear, I can trust God to direct my steps.