

LESSONS FROM A MOABITESS

- I. **There are things we need to leave to be right with God.**
 - a. Naomi seemed to understand that she and her family had been punished by God for going to Moab (Ruth 1:20-21).
 - b. In order for her to be blessed by God, as well as Ruth, they had to leave a land of idolatry and go back to God's people.
 - c. Ruth seems to have become a believer in Jehovah God (Ruth 1:16-17) and she wanted to be with Naomi in a land where she could be blessed.
 - d. In order for us to be blessed by God today, we have to leave the land of sin and go be with God's people.
 - i. God calls us to separate from the world in order to be right with Him.
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – they were separated from those past sins by their being washed in the blood of Christ, which indicates they were separated from the world.
 - e. There are things we have to cut off to be right with God.
 - i. Paul left all that he knew in order to be right with God.
 - ii. Philippians 3:7-8.
 - f. Even when we come to God, there is continual self-evaluation that must be done, which the Lord referred to as purging (John 15:1-2).
 - i. There's not time when we will have attained perfection.
 - ii. Philippians 3:12-13.
 - g. Both Naomi and Ruth had to leave Moab to be right with God and we must leave sin to be right with God.
- II. **We must work in order to eat.**
 - a. When Ruth settles in the city of Bethlehem, she did not wait on handouts of food or for others to take care of her.
 - b. Instead, she took on the responsibility of taking care of herself and Naomi.
 - i. We read at the end of chapter 1 that they came back to Bethlehem during the time of barley harvest.
 - ii. Ruth 2:2.
 - iii. Ruth 2:17-18.
 - iv. Ruth 2:23.
 - c. In a recent study done, more than 1 in 4 Americans are receiving some kind of government assistance.
 - i. Those who using Obamacare health plans make that number go higher since those plans are subsidized by the government.
 - ii. Not all of those on assistance are truly disabled, as we well know.
 - d. There are numerous people who have the physical ability to work but don't because they can survive off of government provided care.

- e. Once sin entered the world, God has always intended for man to work (Genesis 3:19).
- f. God intends for His people to work today (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).
- g. Not only that, we are to provide for our aged family members (1 Timothy 5:8).
- h. Ruth exemplifies for us that we are to work for our food.

III. **You reap what you sow.**

- a. When Boaz found out who Ruth was, he told her that she didn't need to go to any other fields and that if she needed any water that she could get it from what his servants had drawn (Ruth 2:8-9).
- b. He also told her to eat with his servants and then told his servants to let her gather wherever she wanted and to also drop some especially for her (Ruth 2:14-16).
- c. This all seems awfully nice of a man to do for a woman from another country.
- d. Ruth didn't know why he was so kind to her and she asked him why.
- e. Notice his answer (Ruth 2:11-12).
 - i. Her kindness and faithfulness to Naomi was known to all.
 - ii. For the way she treated Naomi, Ruth was given great kindness by Boaz.
- f. Galatians 6:7.
 - i. Do you believe she would have been treated so well if she hadn't shown herself to be kind?
 - ii. How we treat others is showing to the world how we want to be treated.
 - iii. The Golden Rule tells us this (Matthew 7:12).
- g. If we are kind to others, that will come back on us, but the opposite of that is true as well.
- h. If we want to be able to draw others to Christ, it is going to be by treating them properly (Colossians 3:12).
- i. Ruth was treated well because she had shown that she treated others well.

IV. **We all need a redeemer.**

- a. Being a single woman in that time would have been extremely difficult.
- b. Let alone, being single and supporting a widow.
- c. Married women were not treated great, so we can imagine how single ones may have been looked upon.
- d. Naomi knew that they would need more than what Ruth could provide, and more than that, Ruth deserved a better fate.
 - i. For this reason, Naomi devised a plan to provide just that.
 - ii. It involved the fact that Boaz was a near kinsman.
- e. Notice what the text says from the ESV (Ruth 3:9-13):

- i. He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."
 - ii. And he said, "May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.
 - iii. And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I.
 - iv. Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the Lord lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."
- f. The role of redeemer or near kinsman as the KJV says, was interesting (describe it).
- g. Ruth knew she needed someone to redeem her under the circumstances of that time.
- h. You and I need a redeemer as well.
 - i. We all owe a debt for our sins (Romans 6:23).
 - ii. It is a debt that we cannot pay on our own, as we sing from time to time.
 - iii. God, in His grace and mercy, provided a Redeemer in the person of Jesus, His only begotten Son.
 - iv. The New Testament even describes the action of Christ as a redemption (Titus 2:14).
- i. Things would have been incredibly difficult for Ruth and Naomi if Boaz had not been willing to be their redeemer.
- j. Infinitely times worse it would have been for us if the Lord had not been willing to be our Redeemer.

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