

Security Blanket

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RUTH 3

This Week's Core

Competency:

Faithfulness - I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Never let loyalty and faithfulness leave you. Tie them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will find favor and high regard in the sight of God and man. (Proverbs 3:3-4)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EXPAND His Word

How does this FIT? Studying cross references can help expand your understanding of a passage and discover the unity in God's word.

④ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

There are plenty of accounts portraying examples of keeping one's word, or of displaying faithfulness. The following is an astounding one.

One stormy night an elderly couple entered the lobby of a small hotel and asked for a room. The clerk said they were filled, as were all the hotels in town. "But I can't send a fine couple like you out in the rain," he said. "Would you be willing to sleep in my room?" The couple hesitated, but the clerk insisted. The next morning when the man paid his bill, he said, "You're the kind of man who should be managing the best hotel in the United States. Someday I'll build you one." The clerk smiled politely.

A few years later the clerk received a letter from the elderly man, recalling that stormy night and asking him to come to New York. A round-trip ticket was enclosed. When the clerk arrived, his host took him to the corner of 5th Avenue and 34th Street, where stood a magnificent new building.

"That," explained the man, "is the hotel I have built for you to manage." The man was William Waldorf Astor, and the hotel was the original Waldorf-Astoria. The young clerk, George C. Boldt, became its first manager.

This Week

Aside from the fact that it is God's Word, the Book of Ruth is a literary masterpiece. It relates an amazing turn of events with incredible brevity. Ruth remains obediently loyal and faithful to Naomi. But, alas, it is transition time in the Book of Ruth. There is now a new relationship brewing. Ruth, Chapter 3, unveils the beginning of another important demonstration of faithfulness - now between Boaz and Ruth.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage

Ruth 3

1 Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, shouldn't I find **security** for you, so that you will be taken care of?"

2 Now isn't Boaz our relative? Haven't you been working with his female servants? This evening he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor.

3 Wash, put on perfumed oil, and wear your best clothes. Go down to the threshing floor, but don't let the man know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.

4 When he lies down, notice the place where he's lying, go in and **uncover his feet**, and lie down. Then he will explain to you what you should do."

5 So Ruth said to her, "I will do everything you say."

6 She went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law had instructed her.

7 After Boaz ate, drank, and was in good spirits, he went to lie down at the end of the pile of barley. Then she went in secretly, **uncovered his feet**, and lay down.

8 At midnight, Boaz was startled, turned over, and there lying at his feet was a woman!

9 So he asked, "Who are you?" "I am Ruth, your slave," she replied. "**Spread your cloak over me**, for you are a family redeemer."

10 Then he said, "May the Lord bless you, my daughter. You have shown more kindness now than before, because you have not pursued

younger men, whether rich or poor.

11 Now don't be afraid, my daughter. I will do for you whatever you say, since all the people in my town know that you are a woman of noble character.

12 Yes, it is true that I am a family redeemer, but there is a redeemer closer than I am.

13 Stay here tonight, and in the morning, if he wants to redeem you, that's good. Let him redeem you. But if he doesn't want to redeem you, as the Lord lives, I will. Now lie down until morning."

14 So she lay down at his feet until morning but got up while it was still dark. Then Boaz said, "Don't let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor."

15 And he told Ruth, "Bring the shawl you're wearing and hold it out." When she held it out, he shoveled **six measures of barley** into her shawl, and she went into the town.

16 She went to her mother-in-law, Naomi, who asked her, "How did it go, my daughter?" Then Ruth told her everything the man had done for her.

17 She said, "He gave me these six measures of barley, because he said, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'"

18 Naomi said, "My daughter, wait until you find out how things go, for he won't rest unless he resolves this today."

Notes:

(v. 1) **security**- this word (*manowach* /maw·no·akh) is translated "rest" in the Old Testament. It speaks of both a spiritual rest and physical rest.

(vv. 4, 8) **uncovered his feet**- This was a gentle nudge by Ruth to perform his duty as the kinsman-redeemer.

(v. 9) **spread your cloak over me**- Literally she asked that he "*spread*" his "*wing*" over her since he was a kinsman-redeemer. The reference here is a token of marriage (3:8-9).

(v. 15) **six measures of barley**- The "measure" was probably the seah (one-third of an ephah or about 10 pounds). Thus six seahs would equal about 60 pounds.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. In verse 1 Naomi is concerned about finding a home or rest/security for Ruth. What exactly does she mean by this (see 1:9)?
2. Why would Boaz tell Ruth to “spend the night” (verse 13)?
3. Who do you think Boaz was talking to in verse 14?
4. After reading chapter 3, do you think marriage and family are important to God? Why?

③ EXPAND His Word

How does this FIT?

5. In verses 1 and 9 it seems to be saying that the husband has the responsibility to provide for and protect his wife. Does that hold true today (see 1 Timothy 5:8)?
6. Like a Sadie Hawkins dance, Naomi and Ruth initiated this romantic encounter with Boaz. Were they within their rights to do this (see Deuteronomy 25:5-10)?
7. In verse 9 Ruth tells Boaz to “spread the corner of your garment over me.” According to Ezekiel 16:8, what does that seem to mean?
8. Also in verse 9, Ruth (the woman) assumes a role of submission in the potential marital relationship. Does this role for a woman in marriage apply today (see Ephesians 5:22-24)?

④ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

9. Read verse 3: “Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. . .” Men and women do you basically continue on with that practice in your marriage, still, or did that stop when the honeymoon was over? In other words, do you work at the romance in your marriage?

10. Verse 11: “. . . All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character.” Guys and Gals - are you conscientious about a clean testimony among people you have contact with?

11. Are you intimidated by the world’s attacks on the Biblical, Christian view of marriage? Discuss some of the current world views and how you respond to them?

12. Boaz emerges here as a person of admirable character. What are some of the attributes of his character that you would like to imitate or perfect (see vs.12, 13, 17 &18).

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

Sermon Notes:

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.