

Surviving The Difficulties of Life (Part 3)

Sunday, April 22, 2018
10:30 AM

John 16:1 (NIV)

16 “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.

John 16:33 (NIV)

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have **trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Difficulties can be tragic...

- Woman from Abuelos in Phoenix

Difficulties can be ongoing...

Difficulties can be heartbreaking, frustrating and annoying...

We Summarized Chapter 1 with this thought.... **CLING TO GOD**

And said...

1. It wasn't a sin to leave Bethlehem because of the famine
But sometimes our search for answers from the difficulties of life separates us from our faith and connection with God
2. Surviving the difficulties of life begins as we realize that despite our troubles, God is a good God and has help for us
3. There is often a journey back to, or for some the first time, that place of faith and relationship with God.
4. We will have to make a choice as to where we will look for strength and provision
5. If we are to make it through we must cling to God
 - Illustration of the Gideon Testimony
6. Difficulties may change us, but they don't have to define us

Chapter 2 could be summarized with this thought.... **GETTING OUR FOCUS OFF OF THE DIFFICULTY AND ON TO GOD**

We do this by recognizing and implementing the following ...

1. There is a man. (Verse 1, 20)
2. Don't give up on life (Verse 2)
3. Keep Moving - with the intent of moving forward if you can
4. Trust in God's provision, protection, and plan for your life
5. Invest in the lives of others

As we move into Chapter 3, the emphasis changes from what we can do to survive the difficulties of life to what God does for us to help us survive the difficulties of life.

Ruth 3 New International Version (NIV)

Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor

3 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home[a] for you, where you will be well provided for. **2** Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. **3** Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. **4** When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

5 "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. **6** So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

7 When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. **8** In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!

9 "Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer[b] of our family."

10 "The Lord bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. **11** And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. **12** Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. **13** Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning."

14 So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor."

15 He also said, "Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he[c] went back to town.

16 When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, "How did it go, my daughter?"

Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her **17** and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

18 Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

Ruth 4:1-10 New International Version (NIV)

Boaz Marries Ruth

4 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer[a] he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, “Come over here, my friend, and sit down.” So he went over and sat down.

2 Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. **3** Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. **4** I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you[b] will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.”

“I will redeem it,” he said.

5 Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the[c] dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.”

6 At this, the guardian-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.”

7 (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

8 So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal.

9 Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. **10** I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!”

The book of Ruth paints a beautiful picture of our redeemer Jesus Christ. A redeemer was one who bought back and thus restored something that had been lost or given up. Under the Law of God, it was the responsibility of the closest relative to redeem property or persons thus restoring them to their rightful place. In the case of a man who had died and left no heirs to carry on his line a redeemer would take the widow as his own wife, thus the child born to them would carry on the line of the husband who had died ensuring that his lineage, etc... would carry on.

That's what Job cried out in the midst of his trouble... I know my redeemer lives

That's why David declared...

Psalms 119:154 (NIV)

154 Defend my cause and redeem me; preserve my life according to your promise.

The hope that we find in the book of Ruth is different in that it is PERSONAL. So many times in the scripture we see the promises and power of God affecting an entire group of people. But in Ruth the focus is so much more personal. Ruth reminds me that God is a personal God and His promises and redemptive power are for me and my circumstances.

As our Kinsmen redeemer, Jesus...

1. Has the responsibility of redeeming us

- But notice the initiation of this event.... Ruth's obedient and humble approach indicating her desire to be redeemed
- I still believe that Jesus is just waiting for an invitation, or more appropriately our acceptance of his invitation

Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

- He became one of us, our close relative so that he could have the right to redeem us
- I will do for you all you ask

2. Has the desire to redeem us

- He values us
 - Value is not inherent in the object itself, but comes as a result of the desire of the one who longs for it.
- He wants us
- He loves us
- He is willing to be united with us and give us his name
- He was willing to pay the price of our redemption

3. Has the means of redeeming us

- Power
- Authority
- Resources
- He will fight for us

Isaiah 43:1 New International Version (NIV)

43 ...“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.