

Ruth (Love Defined) - Part 3

Sunday, February 4, 2024

10:30 AM

I would like our study to keep this thought in mind... **LOVE DEFINED**

What should I look for in the Book of Ruth...

- The lack of true love in the world
- God's love for us
- Our love for God
- Our love for each other
- The characteristics of what love should look like

We talked about the Pictures of Love that we see in Chapter 1

Pictures that represented the LACK OF LOVE experienced by Naomi and Ruth, and which mimic our own culture, lives and experiences

- **Days when the judges ruled.** (Verse 1)... An Atmosphere *(Culture) that lacked love
 - Wicked and selfish... every man for themselves (did what was right in their own eyes)
 - **Horrible atrocities of evil** (especially in chapters 17-21 much of which centered around Bethlehem)
 - **Lack of love** (For God, for each other, for righteousness)
- **Famine in Bethlehem (Verse 1)**
 - No bread in the house of bread - (I would also say a famine of love... leaving people without something they need to live)
- **Death of husbands leaving them alone and without anyone to love and care for them**
- **The hopelessness's and bitterness of Naomi, even casting doubt of any possibility that God loved her or cared for her**

But then we turned our attention to the pictures that remind of us God's love for us in the midst of a world that lacks love

- **Bethlehem** - The birthplace of "The Love of God"
- **Barley Harvest** - reminding us of the provision of salvation that God's LOVE made available to us. LOVE that breaks the stronghold of the enemy. A love that is defined by understanding that God alone is the source for real love... That the fake imitations of the world will never give us the nourishment that we need... That Jesus is LOVE DEFINED!

Then we turned our attention to THE WHO'S of LOVE

PART 2 - THE WHO'S OF LOVE

GOD'S LOVE TOWARDS US

- **FORIEGNERS** (People who don't know or love God - Moabites of which Ruth was one)

"God loves because of who God is, not because of who we are." - Philip Yancey

The Who of God's Love is us... NO matter who we are... NO matter what we've done, God Loves US!

- **PRODIGALS** (Those who walk away from God - Naomi)

Even when we walk away from God, Even when we go our own way, even when we are mad at God and blame Him for the circumstances our own choices create for us, even when we don't believe in Him anymore; He still believes in us and He STILL LOVES US.

OUR LOVE TOWARDS GOD AND OTHERS

- Love God
- Love Our Neighbor
- Love Our Enemies

Today we want to begin looking at some more specific ways that LOVE is DEFINED in the book of Ruth

Many are familiar with The 5 Love Languages

The five love languages are a concept developed by Dr. Gary Chapman, a marriage counselor and author. They are the ways that people express and receive love in relationships. The five love languages are...

- **Words of affirmation:** compliments, praise, appreciation
- **Quality time:** spending time together, giving undivided attention
- **Physical touch:** hugs, kisses, cuddles, holding hands
- **Acts of service:** doing things for the other person, such as chores, errands, favors
- **Receiving gifts:** giving or receiving thoughtful and meaningful presents

*If the 5 love languages are the language of love than what I want to share with you are the words, the thoughts and ideas that are communicated by the love languages

Let's return to Chapter 1 once again, but this time I want to focus on Verses 8-18

Ruth 1:8-18

8 Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. 9 May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud 10 and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

11 But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? 12 Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— 13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!"

14 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

15 “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Love Is A Choice

14 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

- Ruth had a choice to make
- Beedy-Thatcher Pre-marital counsel
- God doesn't have to love you, but He has chosen to Love us

I am not trying to take away from the fact that Love involves our feelings, emotions, and the attractions of our hearts; but let's remember that those things can change based on the circumstances that surround us.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Love Means Commitment

16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.

- Commitment means continuing to make the same choice again and again
- For richer for poor, in sickness and in health

John 14:15

15 “If you love me, keep my commands.

Love Requires Sacrifice

17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

Ephesians 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

- Not my will but yours be done
- Till death do us part

1 John 3:11-16

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters,[\[a\]](#) if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.