

## Ruth Week 6 - Faithful People

- "In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab."

Ruth 1:1 NIV

- So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning."

Ruth 1:22 NIV

- "And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter.'"

Ruth 2:2 NIV

- "The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." Ruth 4:14-15

- The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David."

Ruth 4:17 NIV

Intro: Before and Afters and Contrasts

### 1. Time of the Judges

A. In a period of time marked by incredible unfaithfulness to God, idolatry, injustice, the book of Ruth gives us a snapshot into a community of people that were faithful to God

### 2. Unimpressive, Non-noteworthy faithfulness

- a. Moving, working hard to feed yourself, getting married, having kids
- b. No miracles, no prophecies, nothing overtly spectacular

### 3. Faithful Individuals

- A. Naomi's heart towards her daughters in law
- B. Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi because of her faith in God
- C. Boaz's faithfulness to Ruth, despite how costly it was
- D. Faithful to work,

### 4. Faithful Community

- A. faithful to care for the poor
- B. faithful to hard work
- C. People who recognized godly character, see dignity in others despite existing prejudices

### 5. Being hidden, going slow, and not favoring gifts over faithfulness is Hard in our world

- A. Private, unseen life is rapidly decreasing in our world.
- B. The success that a person's gifts can create are prized more than faithful character
- C. Slow and challenging is increasingly hard
- Ex. Not a millionaire by 24

### 6. Unimpressive, ordinary faithfulness leads to extraordinary things

- A. There is no Obed, no joining the lineage of Jesus without the simple things
- B. God's people were faithful as they waited for God's faithful promise of a savior to come

## 7. Faithful People In a Faithless World

Romans 5: 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17 NIV

- A. As the people of Jesus, we are called to be a faithful people in a faithless world
- B. Like God’s people in the book of Ruth, we are called to be a counter cultural community
- C. D. We are faithful in light of God’s fulfilled promised in Christ
- E. We are faithful in response to God’s faithfulness

### Discussion Questions:

1. The book of Ruth takes place during the time of Judges. The contrast this creates is that during an era marked by extreme unfaithfulness to God, we see God’s people in Ruth practicing faithfulness to God. In what do you see parallels between the book of Ruth and the time of the Judges and our present day?
2. In the book of Ruth we see ordinary, non-noteworthy acts of faithfulness practiced by God’s people. By the end of the book we see God connecting simple faithfulness to his extraordinary plan of redemption. What are some ordinary acts of faithfulness that you feel God is calling you to?
3. In the book of Ruth we see God’s people caring for the poor, pushing past prejudices, and making room in their lives all in order to live faithfully before God. We see people transformed by God as they live out faithfulness to God and others. In your own life, what are some ways that God is transforming you and helping you to live faithfully?
4. Faithfulness is demonstrated over time, during seasons of life where faithful action is inconvenient and difficult. When we persist and push through, faithfulness is forged in our souls. Describe some areas of your life where you sense God forging faithfulness? What are some challenges in that journey? What are some victories?
5. Our hearts are prone towards unfaithfulness, yet God transforms us to become faithful as his faithfulness to us in Christ reorients our lives. Living faithful lives empower our witness to the watching world as people see the Gospel of Jesus lived out in our faithful actions. In what settings and before which people is God calling you to live faithfully before? What are some challenges to living faithful before others?
6. Share prayer requests with 2-3 people