

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

