

Refresh our minds – Jesus the center of our character studies

Character Study: “The Story of Gideon”



“GO, I AM WITH YOU”

” And the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?”

Judges 6:12



Character Study: “STEPHEN”



“The Joy of a crucified Life”

” [55] But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. [56] And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Acts 7:55-56

Why am I still at the winepress?
How can I leave the winepress?

Are you crucified with Christ?

Character Study: “Lessons from NOAH”

“The Day of the Lord”



” [37] For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
[38] For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,
[39] and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man”.

Matthew 24:37-39

God’s invitation to mankind to be saved
How prepared are we for the day of the Lord?

Character Study – Ruth



“The Journey To New Beginnings”

[16] But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you,
Or to turn back from following after you; For
wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you
lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my
people, And your God, my God

Ruth 1:16

“Lessons from Ruth”

Elimelech's Journey... The Price of Disobedience

[1] Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. [2] The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. **Ruth 1:1-2**

[3] Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. [4] Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. [5] Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so, the woman survived her two sons and her husband.. **Ruth 1:3-5**

Further Reading: Gens 19:30-38, Deut 23:2-3, Deut 28:15-24, Roms 12:2b

Naomi's Journey Home...

[6] Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread. [8] And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. **Ruth 1:1-2**

- God Never Forgets His Children **Isaiah 49:15-16**
- God's Faithfulness To His Children **Deut 31:6**
- Trails Don't Last Forever **Lamentations 3:22-23**
- Always Room To Return Home **Luke 15:20**

Further Reading: Luke 15:20-24, Is 55:6-7, Ez 36:26-27, Hosea 14:1-4

The Choice to go forward or backward...



[10] And they said to her, “Surely we will return with you to your people.” [11] But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?”

[12] Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,

[13] would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me!”

[14] Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

[15] And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” **Ruth 1:10-15**

Luke 9:62

“Are you Orpah or Ruth”?

A New Beginning is Possible.....



- **Ruth and Naomi returns Home** –[19] Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?”.... **Ruth 1:19**
- **Ruth Meets Boaz** – [1] There was a relative of Naomi’s husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz. [2] So Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” [3] Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.....**Ruth 2:1-3**

- **Boaz Compassion For Ruth** – [8] Then Boaz said to Ruth, “You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. [9] Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn. **Ruth 2:8-9**

Lessons From Ruth...

- **Trust in God** – [5] Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; [6] In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths..... **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- **Loyalty** –[2] and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.....**2 Tim 2:2**
- **Faith in God** – [6] And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him..... **Hebs 11:6**
- **Humility (Service)** – [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others....
Philippians 2:3-4
- **Integrity** – [9] Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out..... **Provs 10:9**

Ruth's Encounter with her Redeemer...

[1] Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? [2] Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. [3] Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. [5] And she replied, “All that you say I will do.. . **Ruth 3:1-5**

[11] And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. [12] And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. [13] Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the Lord lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning... **Ruth 3:11-13**

Further Reading: Levi 25:25-55, Gal 3:13, Titus 2:14, Eph 1:7, Isaiah 59:20

Retrospect... “The Journey To New Beginnings”



[18] forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot....**Peter 1:18-19**

Your Redeemer Lives....