House Church Series, Lesson 8

RUTH’S AND BOAZ’S FAITH

(God Uses Commitment and Selflessness in His Redemptive History)

Ruth 1:1–4:22

Key Verse: 2:12

* During the times of Judges, the Lord revealed his grace by raising deliverers for his people, despite their repeated idolatry and disobedience (Jdg3:7,12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 21:25). In those dark spiritual times, God was still working through his remnant people––like Naomi, Ruth and Boaz.

1. What situation prompted Naomi’s family to immigrate to Moab, and what tragedies befell them there? (1:1–5) Why did Naomi become hopeless? (11–13) How did she interpret what had happened? (13b,20–21)
2. For what reason did Naomi decide to return? (6–7) On the way, what did she propose? (8–9) As Moabite widows, what risks did they face in going back to Israel? How did Orpah respond? (10–14a) What choice did Ruth make, and how did she express her faith? (14b–18) Why is it important to make a life commitment to God and his people?
3. How does the author introduce Boaz? (2:1,4) What moved him to be kind to, protect and provide for Ruth––a foreigner? (5–11,13–16) Read 2:12. In what way did he bless her and encourage her faith? How could he do this? What can husbands learn from Boaz about making a good environment for house church ministries?
4. When Ruth came back from the field, what did Naomi discover? (17–19a) What did Naomi realize about Boaz? (19b–20) For how long did Ruth work in Boaz’s field? (21–23) How did Naomi show her concern for Ruth’s future and what counsel did she give? (3:1–4) What do we learn from Naomi about helping those whom God entrusts to us?
5. How did Ruth respond to Naomi? (5–7) Why might this have been difficult? What was Ruth’s motive? (8–9) Note the duties of a kinsman-redeemer (Lev25:25,47–49). How did Ruth’s act of obedience reveal her faith in God? (1:16; Ro1:5) What act of obedient faith can you make for your house church to be effective in God’s redemptive history?
6. How did Boaz interpret Ruth’s action, protect her integrity, and assure her? (10–18) What can men learn from him? What did he do to redeem Naomi’s family? (4:1–10; Dt 25:5–10) How did he reveal unselfish love for Ruth in contrast to the first kinsman-redeemer? How did the elders witness and bless the marriage? (11–12)
7. How did God bless Boaz and Ruth’s marriage? (13) How had God blessed Naomi through Ruth? (14–17) How did he change her life through this couple’s faith and commitment to God? (cf. 1:20–21) How did God use them in his redemptive history? (18–22; Mt1:5) What vision can you find for your family in God’s redemptive history?