

Ruth, A wild olive Planted in the sweet olive tree

1- Objectives

- ❖ Learn about the life of Ruth
- ❖ Lessons from the life of Ruth
- ❖ God dealing with faithful people

2- References

- ❖ The Holy Bible “Book of Ruth”
- ❖ Interpretation of the Bible by Fr. Tadros Malaty
http://st-takla.org/pub_Bible-Interpretations/Holy-Bible-Tafsir-01-Old-Testament/Father-Tadros-Yacoub-Malaty/08-Seifr-Raouth/Tafseer-Seifr-Ra3outh__00-index.html

3- Scriptural Verses

- ❖ “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. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me” (Ruth 1: 16-17)

4- Lesson Guidelines

Who is Ruth?

- ❖ Ruth was a Moabitess (gentile) who was married to one of Nahomi’s sons (a Jew). When she became part of Naomi’s family she was drawn to their God and desired to have a relationship with him.
- ❖ She continued to pursue this relationship with Him even though it meant leaving her people, the prospect of marrying and having children. She gave up the love of the world in order to pursue the love of God. She was going to Israel where she would be considered a second class citizen, and an alien. She would potentially be mistreated but she was willing to bear all that in search of a new life without idols and sinful living.
- ❖ Ruth had a very self-sacrificial and loyal love. She leaves her home and her people to go to a foreign land to serve a poor widow who has lost her husband and sons. Her heart was moved with compassion when she saw the bitter suffering that this old woman was going through. Not only was she moved with compassion but she also sacrificed her security, her home and the potential of marrying a Moabite in order to serve Naomi.
- ❖ Her love was also extremely steadfast; she stayed with Naomi through thick and thin; just as the Lord Jesus loves us no matter what we have done and no matter what our sin is, we too are called to love in that same way and to bear with people and their weaknesses.
- ❖ Ruth was extremely a hardworking person. Once she was in Israel, she didn’t decide to mooch off of the Israelites or Naomi or spend the whole day in the temple in acts of worship. She translated her love for God and her desire to honor her mother-in-law by working very hard (Ruth 2:2-7). Our Lord Himself reminded the Pharisees that mercy comes before sacrifice “I desire mercy and not sacrifice.” Working is a form of prayer when it is done for God’s glory.
- ❖ Ruth accepted humiliation gladly. Being a foreigner she could only pick up the leftover grain that the Jews hadn’t picked and they by God’s law were not supposed to pick up the

whole harvest in order to leave some for the strangers who lived among them. That must be very humiliating to be considered lower than the workers who are gleaning the fields. We see that Boaz actually instructs the servants to treat her well as that certainly would not have been the norm (Ruth 2:15-17).

- ❖ Ruth had straight values and was not one to go after appearances. Boaz was an older man and used to call her “daughter” When Naomi suggested to Ruth that Boaz could marry her and redeem their family she did not object and decide to search for a young, handsome man, but she willingly accepted because she had experienced the kindness of this man’s heart and sensed his desire to protect her.
- ❖ Ruth was extremely obedient in carrying out Naomi’s instructions on how to approach Boaz; she didn’t argue or make suggestions. She trusted that Naomi knew best what was most suitable for their culture. Ruth didn’t know much about Jewish tradition but she didn’t pretend to know it either.
- ❖ The faithfulness of Ruth was crowned by the Lord’s gift Who granted her a name among His people to be called in the genealogy of His Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Ruth conceived from Boaz and gave birth to Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David. And so Ruth is the grandmother of Our Lord who is called the Son of David.

Naomi

- ❖ Speaking about Ruth; we cannot neglect the great role of Naomi who, through her love to the Lord, was able to attract her daughters in Law to leave their land and go after her seeking the refuge under the name of the Lord.
- ❖ Although Naomi at some point felt that God was out to get her, but she realized later that He has been so merciful to her in the time of her affliction and granted her Ruth who was better for her than seven sons (Ruth 4: 15).
- ❖ Naomi really loved Ruth, she did not neglect Ruth’s life and considered her just a helper to her, but she planned and made all what she could to marry her to a great man to be able to have children, and at the end she took the child and laid him in her bosom and became a nurse for him.
- ❖ God looked upon the grief that Naomi had experienced after the loss of her husband and sons and rewarded her with a grandson who would be the grandfather of King David.

Lessons from the life of Ruth

- ❖ We are called to pursue the love of God, which may cost us to give up the Love of the world, our friends and even the pleasures in our own life having confidence that God is able to put righteous people in our path.
- ❖ Unlike Ruth, many times we lack this sort of compassion towards others, because either we get caught up with our lives and our problems and forget others or we don’t try to reach out to people to get to know them and understand what they are going through; or because when people suffer they become unpleasant to be around.
- ❖ Just as the Lord Jesus loves us no matter what we have done and no matter what our sin is, we too are called to love in that same way and to bear with people and their weaknesses.
- ❖ Many times we use religion as an excuse not to work although working is a form of prayer when it is done for God’s glory.
- ❖ Accept the humiliation gladly like our Lord Jesus Christ who bore His humiliation in silence.
- ❖ Do not go after the outside appearance, but go deeply seeking the way of God.
- ❖ Obedience should be our way of life (obey the word of God, His servants, parents, teachers and all those who righteously explain the word of God).

5- Conclusion

- ❖ Through faithfulness, Ruth the Moabitess, was granted a name among the people of the Lord. She was considered worthy to bear a son who was the grandfather of David and the ancestor of our Lord Jesus Christ.

6- Activities / Discussion Points

- ❖ Comparing Ruth to Joseph we see that there is one characteristic that they both share which God loved and rewarded abundantly and it was their faithfulness. In every situation they were in, they were faithful to God and the people around them and they were faithful to God in adversity. Through the examples of the faithful stewards we see that if there is anything that God blesses in abundance it's those people who live with faithful hearts.