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him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

## Lessons

1. Holiness and only holiness brings lasting \_\_\_\_\_.
2. No problem in your life, whether difficult problems or agreeable problems can stop God's redemptive \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Faith and hope together release \_\_\_\_\_.
4. No matter how dark the world around you, no matter how difficult the world inside you, God's plan overcomes all obstacles to \_\_\_\_\_.

Key: Page 1: Disadvantages. more. Page 2: Dreams. Material. numb. second. refused.  
Page 4: joy. plan. love. holiness.

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## Ruth and Naomi

### Women of the Old Testament—part 2

Mary 15, 2016

“No matter what happens in your life, I can reach into your heart with the power to form you into someone who values Me above everyone & everything else. I'm determined to reverse your values”

### Overcoming Obstacles to Holiness

#### Act I: Bethlehem

#### Obstacle 1: Overwhelming D\_\_\_\_\_. Ruth

*Ruth 1:1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup> The man's name was Elimelech (My God is King), his wife's name Naomi, and his two sons were Mahlon (sick) and Kilion (Pining).*

#### Act II: Moab

*Ruth 1:3 Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> They married Moabite women, one named Orpah (Stubbornness) and the other Ruth (Friendship). After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.*

*Ruth 1:16 Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."*

Are natural disadvantages \_\_\_\_\_ important to you to overcome than an unholy value system?

#### Obstacle #2: Shattered \_\_\_\_\_ Naomi

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*Ruth 1:11 But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?"<sup>12</sup> Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me--even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons--<sup>13</sup> would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has gone out against me!"*

### **Act III, Scene 1: Naomi's return to Bethlehem**

*Ruth 1:20 "Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter."<sup>21</sup> I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."*

### **Obstacle #3. \_\_\_\_\_ Resources. Boaz**

#### **Act III, Scene 2: the gleaning fields**

*Ruth 2:3 So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.*

Boaz had

- Wealth that did not \_\_\_\_\_ his heart,
- Desire for love that made money a \_\_\_\_\_ thing,
- Integrity that \_\_\_\_\_ immoral or illegal movement toward satisfaction of that desire.

*Ruth 2:20 "The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "The Lord has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers."*

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*Ruth 3:3 "Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking."<sup>4</sup> When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."*

#### **Act III, Scene 3: the threshing floor, at night**

*Ruth 3:10 "The LORD bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor."<sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character."<sup>12</sup> Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I."<sup>13</sup> Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning."*

*Ruth 3:18 Then Naomi said, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."*

#### **Act IV, Scene 1: the city gate**

*Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.*

#### **Act IV, Scene 2: God's long redemptive story**

*Ruth 4:14 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!"<sup>15</sup> 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."<sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him.<sup>17</sup> The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named*

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