

Bible Spotlight Naomi and Ruth

By Noah Flanrey

From the end of October to the beginning of January you can turn on any television and watch a holiday movie or special. The Hallmark channel was even showing Christmas movies after December 25th. I will admit that there are several holiday movies and television specials that I thoroughly enjoy. If there is a particular show that I regularly watch, I look forward with anticipation to the holiday episodes. These episodes generally highlight the main characters as they spend time with their families. Drama and comedy ensue when the main character(s) are forced to interact with... the dreaded in-laws. It is common in these shows that the wife and her mother-in-law are constantly at odds. They disagree and fight about anything and everything. While these are only television shows and are exaggerated for the sake of entertainment, they can cause us to stop and think about our own relationships. Can a person and their in-laws get along or are they doomed to live out their lives in constant opposition as the media portrays?

In the book of Ruth, we find a Jewish woman named Naomi. Because of a famine in Israel, Naomi, along with her husband and two sons move to land of Moab. While in Moab, Naomi's sons marry two local women, Orpah and Ruth. According to Ruth 1:4 Naomi and her family dwell in the land of Moab for ten years. During that time Naomi's husband and her two sons pass away leaving her with only two daughters-in-law. When Naomi hears that conditions have improved in Judah she decides to move home. Both of Naomi's daughters-in-law wish to go with her despite her attempts to dissuade them. Eventually Naomi persuades Orpah to stay in Moab with her own people, but Ruth continues to cleave to her mother-in-law. In my opinion, one of the most beautiful examples of love is found in Ruth 1:16-17 when Ruth tells Naomi, *"Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me."* This passage is evidence that a woman and her mother-in-law can love, admire, and respect one another.

How are your relationships with your "in-laws"? Are they centered around mutual love and respect or around conflict and strife? There are lessons that each of us should learn from the relationship of Naomi and Ruth.

Naomi's life shows us the power and influence that a godly woman wields. In the above passage, Ruth denounces her own people's religion and vows to serve Jehovah. One cannot help but see the great influence for good that Naomi had on Ruth's life. All mothers- and fathers-in-law have a special opportunity to wield a Christian influence. Are you wielding it?

Ruth's life shows us any relationship worth having requires work, attention, and determination. Notice how many times Ruth refuses to stay behind in Moab as Naomi requests. It is probably an easier life for Ruth in Moab with people she knows and a culture she is accustomed to, but she is not leaving Naomi's side. If you want a good and solid relationships today, you have to be determined to work at them. If you are not satisfied with your relationships it may be the case that you need to put more work and effort into them.

If you have not read the entire book of Ruth recently, I suggest you do so. It contains one of the greatest love stories that has ever occurred.

PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK

This puzzle is taken from Hebrews 10:

P	W	H	V	B	D	T	Q	H	E	C	L	F	X	O
H	L	A	O	N	U	O	R	C	B	E	W	O	L	V
E	X	E	O	P	T	L	N	V	G	W	F	F	J	G
Z	C	C	A	E	D	E	L	S	N	I	S	F	H	O
Y	E	N	W	S	I	E	P	S	R	N	E	E	S	A
S	D	F	A	C	U	E	G	S	J	D	C	R	U	T
Q	M	O	S	R	R	R	T	R	D	D	I	I	W	S
H	F	N	B	F	B	N	E	B	U	Y	F	N	D	L
L	O	I	E	B	X	M	E	T	U	P	I	G	E	L
C	X	C	B	R	G	M	E	F	F	C	R	O	M	I
W	T	Y	D	Y	O	I	V	M	O	N	C	E	U	W
V	S	A	N	C	T	I	F	I	E	D	A	W	L	Q
V	I	M	A	G	E	F	W	O	U	R	S	N	O	S
X	H	T	B	E	V	J	Y	O	X	L	U	Z	V	Y
W	O	D	A	H	S	U	S	M	U	O	X	X	Z	X

1. The law was a what of good things to come and not the very what?
2. They offered what year by year?
3. Their sacrifices could not make the comers what?
4. If the worshipers had been once what, they would not have had any more of what?
5. In those sacrifices there was what made every year?
6. It was not possible that the blood of what and what could take away what?
7. What did our High Priest say had been prepared for Him?
8. They had no what for the burnt sacrifices and offerings?
9. The things written had been written in the what of the book?
10. Of Jesus it is said, Lo I come to do thy what O God?
11. Jesus said he had what to do thy will?
12. He took away they what to establish the what?
13. By this we are what?
14. This is done through the what of the body of Christ?
15. This was done how many times for all?

WHAT ARE SOME HELPFUL HINTS FOR BIBLE STUDY?

The study of the Bible is the most interesting work one will ever engage himself in. Bible study grows on the one who approaches it the right way. When a person learns how to study the Bible to find its truths, he will always look forward to the time he has set aside to study it.

There are a number of questions we should all ask ourselves when we study. Reading is not necessarily studying, but it is essential to one being a good Bible student. One does not, and a good Bible student would not, try to hurriedly read through a passage just to say he had read it. As we approach the scriptures to read and gain as much as we can from our time, we should ask ourselves the following questions as we read a chapter of the Bible:

1. What is the principle subject in this chapter?
2. What is the most important lesson to be learned from this chapter?
3. What is the most important or pivotal verse in the chapter?
4. Who are the main characters in the chapter?
5. Is there anything in the chapter about Christ?

If we begin with these five questions they will help us as we read. With these in mind we can glean the most from our time with the scriptures. Every Word from God has a purpose and a meaning. If a chapter or verse in in the Bible, it is there for a reason. I should be asking myself, why does God say this? Or, why is this being said? Remember that a big part of being a good Bible student is being inquisitive.

Terry Joe Kee

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

IN OTHER NEWS:

THE FRIEND OF TRUTH

Greensboro Road church of Christ

2008 Old Greensboro Road

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401

(870-932-3920)

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

I am so very blessed. I am blessed to be working with such good and faithful brethren who love the truth and uphold it. All of us have the responsibility of holding up the banner of Christ every day. Some days, that is easier than others. Some days we are surrounded by brethren of like mind and heart, and our day becomes easier. Some days the time is hard because we are surrounded by those who do not share your faith and do not understand have any appreciation for God or His Word. I am so very blessed, because much of my time is spent surrounded by you.

It was a true blessing to be in Calhoun, Georgia this past Lord’s Day. The good brethren at the Northside church are of the mind and heart we find at Greensboro Road. They are loving and kind, but established in the faith and will not be moved. It is good sometimes to visit good and faithful brethren like these to remind us that there are still 7000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal (cf. I Kings 19:1-21; Romans 11:4). Do not allow Satan to trouble your heart, because there are still a great number of brethren who are still fighting the good fight of faith every day. Brethren, try not to spend so much time thinking of your troubles and heartaches, but stop and count all the blessings you have.

The brethren at Northside wanted me to be sure and tell you how much they appreciated you for allowing me to be there with them. Their good and faithful preacher, Kent Bailey, will be with us this fall and I know we will be refreshed and encouraged by his series of sermons. Mark your calendars now for October 25 – 28 and do not miss a service.

Saying all of that, I must say to you, I sure am glad to be home. Being in my own surroundings and sleeping in my own bed is so much more comfortable than anywhere else I may ever find myself, short of heaven.

For all of those who are in the Wednesday night class on “How To Study The Bible?” I trust our time together will be of benefit to every one of us. Not all will be able to follow at the same pace, but everyone who comes and spends time in the scriptures should be able to gain some tools you can put in your spiritual toolbox to help you grow and develop as a Christian. I’m loving my class and all the students. I hope we can develop some habits which will help us be more confident when we try to talk to others about Christ.

Now let us all Go, Grow, Glow, and Sow together.

Visit Our Website: greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELISTS

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

The Need For 2020 Vision

Those Privileged To Serve

January 19, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
Opening Prayer: Scottie Blanchard
Closing Prayer: Ryan Manley
Bible Reading: Hillard Holcomb
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Micah Tindall
Reginald Read Mark Wooten
Tom Carner Steve Stoker
Jacob Eddleman Logan Snyder

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer
Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
Opening Prayer: Dan Nichols
Closing Prayer: Coltin Powell

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

(Wednesday, January 22)
Micah Tindall

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

January 12, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	99
Sunday AM Worship	139
Sunday PM Worship	111
Wednesday Bible Study	
Contribution	\$5505

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

“The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.”

Proverbs 10:7