



#3 "Comfort & Courage"

In the days when the judges ruled,^[a] there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

Ruth 1:1-2

Elimelek = "My God is King", Naomi = "Pleasant"; Mahlon = "Sickly"; Kilion = "Frail"

- When It Comes To Our Families We Are Often Tempted To Prioritize ECONOMIC PROVISION Over SPIRITUAL PROTECTION.

"Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Ruth 1: 16

- The Ruth Story Is A Picture Of Our Own REPENTANCE and Redemption In Christ.

So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning. Ruth 1:22

Question to Consider:

Are There Still Parts Of My Life That Are Stuck In Moab?

- Repentance Is Not A One-Time Event - It Is An ON-GOING Practice.

Ruth's Courage:

And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor. "The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.'

She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter." Ruth 2: 2 & 6-7

- What Motivated Ruth To Act Courageously - Was LOVE

"Hesed" חֶסֶד

God's Mercy, His Love, His Compassion, His Grace, His Loyalty, His Faithfulness & Sacrifice. It is often translated as "loving kindness" or "steadfast love".

- God's "Heced" Love Is Put On Display Through The ACTIONS Of The Individuals In This Story.

"God Still Displays His "Steadfast Love" & "Loving Kindness" Through The Actions Of His People"

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

Life Group Questions

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- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why? Is there anything you want to learn more about?

Re-read Ruth Chapters 1 & 2.

One of the central themes of Ruth is that of "hesed" חֶסֶד .Heced speaks of God's mercy, love, compassion, grace, loyalty, faithfulness and sacrifice. It is often translated as "steadfast love" or "loving kindness". In the book of Ruth God's "hesed" love is put on display through the actions of the individual characters in the story.

- How do you see "hesed" displayed in Naomi's life?
- How do you see "hesed" displayed in Ruth's life?
- How do you see "hesed" displayed in Boaz's life?
- What aspects of "hesed" love is God calling you to develop? What practical steps can you take to work on developing that trait?
- In this story God is quietly working behind the scenes to comfort Naomi & Ruth in their pain and their loss. What are some ways God has comforted you in your pain and loss?
- Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Who might God be calling you to comfort
"with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."?
- What are some ways God has been quietly at work in your life this week? Share what you notice with your Life Group.

Send Feedback or Questions to shaun@waipunachapel.com