

Edification through Loyalty Ruth

Points to Consider

1. Real Loyalty Overcomes External Ties
2. Real Loyalty Requires Real Work
3. Real Loyalty Breeds Real Loyalty

Real Loyalty Overcomes External Ties

Ruth 1:3-5 *Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. 4 Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.*

- Ruth was a _____, one of Lot's descendants.

Ruth 1:6-9 *Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread. 7 Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. 8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband."*

- The natural place to turn in times of crises is to your family. Naomi encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to their _____ house.
- Both Orpah and Ruth were _____ wives and daughters-in-law.

Ruth 1:16-17 *But Ruth said: "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. 17 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's loyalty to Naomi overcame where she _____, who her people would be, and what _____ she served.
- Seeing Ruth's determination, Naomi relented and allowed Ruth to return to _____ with her.
- Loyalty is not determined by our blood, culture, or location. The basis for loyalty is _____ blood.

Luke 8:19-21 *Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. 20 And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." 21 But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."*

- Jesus knew that blood relationships are not as important as _____ relationships.

Real Loyalty Requires Real Work

Ruth 2:1-7 *There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz. 2 So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." 3 Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. 4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered him, "The Lord bless you!" 5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" 6 So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."*

- Relationships take _____!
- Ruth and Naomi are poor and Ruth asks Naomi's permission to go _____ in the fields.
- The Bible says, "She _____ to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz."
- Boaz was _____. He wanted to know who this young lady was.
- His servant told him that she was the Moabite woman who came back with Naomi.
- She asked his _____ to glean in after the reapers.
- She worked all day long with only a _____ rest.
- Ruth worked all day long so she and _____ would have food to eat.

Real Loyalty Breeds Real Loyalty

Ruth 2:8-9 *Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. 9 Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."*

- Boaz invited Ruth to glean _____ in his fields. This was not a restriction; it was _____.
- He told her to stay close to his young women. Staying close to the young women offered her _____.
- He also told her to drink the water his young men have drawn.
- When he ordered the young men not to touch her, he gave her _____.

Ruth 2:11-12 *And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom*

you did not know before. 12 The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

- Boaz was loyal to Ruth because Ruth was loyal to Naomi.
- Boaz prayed for the Lord to fully _____ her for her loyalty.

Ruth 2:14-16 *Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back. 15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."*

- Boaz allowed Ruth to eat at the table with him and the reapers.
- This might have been the first time in a long time she was able to eat until she was _____.
- Boaz then tells his servants to allow her to glean among the sheaves that have already be gathered.
- In addition they were to _____ drop grain for her to glean.

Ruth 3:1-5 *Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? 2 Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."*

Naomi showed her loyalty to Ruth by seeking _____ for her. She wanted everything to be well with Ruth.

Naomi devised a plan that would put Ruth in the _____ position for success. She gave Ruth good advice.

Ruth 3:10-13 *Then he said, "Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. 12 Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I."*

- Boaz blessed Ruth for not going after _____ men whether they were rich or poor.
- He also tells Ruth that the whole town of Bethlehem knew she was a _____ woman.

Ruth 4:1-6 *Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative*

of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. 3 Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. 4 And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it." 5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." 6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

- Boaz was loyal to his _____ when he gave his kinsman the opportunity to buy back the land.
- He was loyal to _____ by following God's law for redemption.
- He was loyal to _____ by giving her a chance to have a family.
- God was loyal to Ruth and Boaz by allowing them to be the great-grandparents of David, and mentioned in the lineage of Christ as recorded in the book of Matthew.

Practical Application

1. Look for opportunities to show loyalty to someone who might not have physical family close. Invite them over for Easter lunch. Offer to watch their kids while they go on a date, visit them in the hospital.
2. Find a way to serve someone this week. Take food to someone. Help clean up someone's yard. Take someone you already have a great relationship with out to dinner.