

# What God can do through Love

---

**L**ove vs *Selfishness*:

Giving to others' basic needs without having as my motive personal reward.

## WITH LOVE GOD ENABLES ME TO HAVE

*No limit to my endurance*

*No end to my trust*

*No fading of my hope*

Love is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.

*1Corinthians 13:7-8a*

## Background of Ruth

- Elimelech moved his family from Bethlehem to Moab, 1:1-2
- In Moab, Elimelech died and Naomi was left with her two sons in a foreign country, vs 3
  - ❑ Both sons married Moabite women: Mahlon married Ruth and Chilion Orpah, vs 4
- After \_\_\_\_\_ years both Mahlon and Chilion died, 1:5
  - ❑ Word of food again in Israel came, so Naomi decided to return home, 1:6
  - ❑ Naomi encouraged her daughters-in-law to go back to their parents, 1:7-13

## 1 No fading of Ruth's hope, 1:14-22

- Orpah returned home, vs 14
- Ruth \_\_\_\_\_ with Naomi., 1:16-17
- They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest, which was in March, 1:19-22

- Naomi:** Pleasant one: now a widow, childless and poor she wanted to be called **Mara:** One who grieves bitterly.
- A lot of major things happened yet because of love, **there was no fading of Ruth's hope.**

## 2 No limit to Ruth's endurance, chapter 2

- Ruth asked Naomi to let her to go and \_\_\_\_\_; Naomi agreed, 2:2
  - Gleaning is hot, back breaking work.
  - Ruth *happened* to glean in a field belonging to Boaz, 2:3
- Boaz arrived at the field and asked his foreman, *Whose damsel is this?* 2:5
  - The foreman said she asked permission to glean, 2:6-7
- **Boaz** (Strength) met Ruth and encouraged her to not glean in any other field, 2:8-9
- Ruth asked him: "*Why... seeing I am a stranger?*" 2:10
  - Why being a Moabite would have left Ruth insecure: Num 25:1-2; Deut 7:3; 23:3; Ezr 9:2; Neh 13:23.
- Boaz replied, *It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband..., 2:11a*
- Boaz included Ruth in the lunch, 2:14
- Ruth gleaned until evening, 2:17
  - Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley -- Which is \_\_\_\_\_
- Ruth also demonstrated love by giving Naomi what she had left after she was satisfied at lunch, 2:18
- Ruth gleaned in Boaz' fields until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest and lived with Naomi, 2:23
  - \_\_\_\_\_ : 6 months of hot back breaking work.

- This was a challenging time but because of love, **there was no limit to Ruth's endurance.**

### 3 No end to Ruth's trust, chapters 3-4

- Naomi instructed Ruth how to approach Boaz on the threshing floor in order to ask to him to redeem her husband's property and marry her, 3:1-4
  - ❑ Ruth said, *All that thou sayest unto me I will do*, 3:5
- Ruth came secretly, to the threshing floor, uncovered Boaz' feet and lay down, 3:7
- In the middle of the night Boaz woke up and was startled to find a woman lying at his feet, and he asked, *Who art thou?* 3:9
  - ❑ And she answered, *I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman*, 3:8-9
    - Directions for this are given in, Deut 25:5-10
- Boaz then explained that there was someone closer, 3:12, 13
- Boaz was concerned about her reputation, vs 14
  - ❑ *She lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.*
  - ❑ Boaz gave her 6 measures of barley so that she would not go back to Naomi empty handed, 3:15-17
- Naomi said, *...The man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day..* 3:18
- Boaz went up to the city gate where the close relative joined him along with ten leading men of the city, 4:1-6
  - ❑ The relative did not want to redeem Ruth so he took off \_\_\_\_\_ and gave it to Boaz as was the custom, 4:7-8

- Boaz said to those present:
  - ❑ *...Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's... of the hand of Naomi... I purchased to be my wife... And all the people... said, We are witnesses... 4:9-11*
  - ❑ *So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. 4:13*
- Then the women said to Naomi: *...thy daughter in law, **which loveth thee**, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. 4:15*
  - ❑ *And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it, 4:16*
- Ruth and Boaz became David's grandparents and are included in Jesus family tree, *4:18-22*
- In following very scary instructions love allowed Ruth to have **no end to her trust**.

## Application

- **Through LOVE GOD ENABLED RUTH**  
to receive the promise of: 1Corinthians 13:7-8a
  - There was — *No fading of her hope*
  - There was — *No limit to her endurance*
  - There was — *No end to her trust*
- All of which demonstrates that:
  - Love is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.*
  - ❑ 1 John 4:10-12; 1 Peter 1:18-19
- For **God so loved** the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life, John 3:16