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But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people will be my people, and your God, my God."
 Ruth 1: 16 AMP



Ruth's Story

Great triumph even through loss

Ruth's Story

- ❁ Ruth was a Moabitess, and she was a reliable and faithful woman.
- ❁ Before Israel had its first king, it was known as the era of the Judges. It was during this time that Canaan went through a drought. Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, therefore ventured into the land of Moab.
- ❁ Then, sadly, one day Elimelech died, and Naomi was left widowed, caring for her two sons in a foreign land.
- ❁ Time went by, and her sons each married a Moabite woman. One was called Orpah, and the other was Ruth. After approximately ten years, both of Naomi's sons also died.
- ❁ Naomi then heard the news that despite the drought in Canaan, God was blessing His people by providing food for them, so she decided to return home to Judah. She told her daughters-in-law to go back to their families and people. Orpah did, but Ruth refused. Even though she knew full well that Naomi had no more sons, she diligently vowed to stay with her mother-in-law and to embrace her nation and God.
- ❁ Naomi took Ruth back to the land of Judah, to a town called Bethlehem, and Ruth faithfully went out to glean barley grain to raise an income for her and Naomi so that they could survive.
- ❁ Ruth's diligence and good stewardship caught the attention of a man who owned one of the fields. This man happened to be a direct family member of Naomi's deceased husband and his name was Boaz. He, showed Ruth great favour. He allowed her to glean barley in his field, dine at his table, and follow his female servants as they gathered grain.

God is a good Father. So, you are loved by Him! Jesus wants to be your Saviour. He also wants to be your Healer.

God can forgive, restore, and help you. So, if you make Jesus the Lord of your life, good things will come from your hurt and pain.

Say this prayer for your Salvation:

Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus.
 Please forgive me for my sins, as I believe Jesus died for me on the cross.
 Father, thank You for raising up Jesus from the dead.
 Jesus, I ask You to come into my heart, and to be the Lord of my life today. In the Name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

(For reference read Romans 10:9 & 10)

A prayer for your healing:

Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. I need Your healing hand in my life. Holy Spirit, you know my story. Please come and touch me today. I receive Your healing to restore my soul.

In the Name of Jesus Christ. Thank You.
 Amen.

- ❁ Now, in those days, it was customary for the closest living blood relative to purchase the possessions of the deceased. It was also customary if a woman was widowed without children for this male relative to marry her to preserve the name of the deceased. This relative is known as a kinsman-redeemer (Leviticus 25).
- ❁ Naomi was able to orchestrate that Ruth would be able to ask Boaz if he would be her kinsman-redeemer (Ruth 3). Boaz established that although he was not the closest living male relative, he would take the matter up with the gentleman who was, and if he chose not to be the kinsman-redeemer, then Boaz would happily be. Once this was lawfully addressed, the closest living relative was not willing to take Ruth's hand in marriage. Boaz, therefore gladly asked for Ruth's hand in marriage and honoured his wife for her virtuous conduct.

God's Hand in Ruth's Life

- ❁ Ruth had a righteous character before the Lord. Naomi commended both Ruth and Orpah for showing kindness to her and sons before they died. Boaz later also described Ruth as a "woman of excellence."
- ❁ Despite being a Moabite by birth, Ruth chose to follow the living God of Naomi, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. and God honoured her for this. God gave Ruth the opportunity to marry again and to have a son called Obed. Obed became the grandfather of King David and the lineage of the Lord Jesus Christ came from this line.
- ❁ Despite what calamities or heart aches you may have faced in your life or will ever face. You can trust that God will be with you and that He does want you to flourish.

You can read more of Ruth's story in the Bible, in book of Ruth from Chapters 1-4

