

Book Tour 2018 (Ruth)

Totally Dedicated

Ruth 1:14-18

God's Word is true. God's Word is sharp and good. I will tell others of its great power **so that He will receive all worship and power in our life.**

Introduction: The book of Ruth is a beautiful love story we will see that Boaz look out in his fields and I believe that he saw Ruth and he fell in love and he redeemed her and it is an amazing picture of God's redeeming love for us and we will preach that message this morning but before we close with that message I want to share with a godly principle that is taught in this book it to is a love story a love that is so strong that it bring some to total dedication, total loyalty.

- A. There is something that is missing in our society and culture two words: dedication and loyalty!
 1. Folks stay in job for less amount of time than ever before, marriage seem to have become an experiment, divorce is at an all-time high!
 2. The church is no different folks jump from church to church!
- Society lost its dedication and loyalty as it became more and more prideful and narcissistic!
- Scripture teaches us to esteem others better than ourselves!
- It teaches us to be servants to surrender our lives.
 - Jesus said that he was hungry and we did not feed Him, thirsty and we did not give Him to drink, was sick and did not visit, in jail He said because we didn't do it to least then we didn't do it to Him!
 - Why? Because we may believe about Jesus we may even proclaim Jesus but are we dedicated to the cause of Jesus Christ!
- B. Now the story in the Book of Ruth starts with a man doing something he should have never done.
 1. When it got tough he gave up and went somewhere he should have never gone!
- He took his wife and two sons and went to a place he didn't belong!
 2. Now while he was there he died then his two sons died and after all the men of the family died mom decided she would return home because God had visited the people!

Transition: Now Naomi was and her two daughter in laws were all that was left and Naomi decided it was time for her to return home!

- A. To her first daughter in law she says go back don't come with me knowing that it would difficult for them.
 1. So Orpah returns and stays with her people.
 2. Now that bring us to Ruth and in Ruth we see an example of incredible dedication and loyalty!

READ TEXT: Ruth 1:14-18**I. I will God where You Go** verse 16

A. Now where Ruth was from they follow a different god chemosh but it is evident that somewhere along the way Ruth had converted and believed now in Naomi's God!

1. So much so that she was willing to go wherever Naomi went because she knew that Naomi was following Jehovah God!

➤ Ruth was so dedicated to God that she would go anywhere that God would lead them!

■ Wow! Church that stuck a cord with me how dedicated are we to God?

■ How loyal are we to Him?

➤ What is it in our lives that directs where we go!

B. Ruth said where you go I will go!

1. She knew that Naomi was following God Ruth want to follow God so it didn't matter to her where they were going it only matter that they were following God!

➤ This was not going to be an easy place for Naomi or Ruth they had no men and it wasn't like it is today...

2. God would work that all out we know the rest of the story of the redeemer Boaz but Ruth didn't know it at the time but she was dedicated to the life that she had found through Naomi's family of living for Jehovah that she would go where ever he would lead them to go!

C. Church, How dedicated are we to God?

1. But pastor I love God and I am so thankful that He saved me and I am thankful He provides for me, and I truly want to serve Him!

➤ Do we?

- Do we really dedicated and loyal enough to the God that saved us from our sin to go where He leads us to go?

Transition: Church at some point Ruth Love for Naomi's God had risen to a place where she trusted Him that where ever He led Naomi she wanted to follow.

- She believed!

- She had faith!

How dedicated is our faith that God will lead us in where we should go in this life that we are living for Him

A. Ruth said where you go I will go and where you stay I will stay!

II. Wherever You Stay I Will Stay verse 16

A. In this little speech from Ruth who had surly at some point been converted from the gods of her people to believing in the one true living God continues.

1. And now she shows her dedication loyalty that wherever God tells them to stay she will stay.

- **Where you lodge I will lodge!**

B. Sometimes it is hard to stay put!

1. The grass always looks greener on the other side!
- And our culture has developed in to a culture that does not take dedication and loyalty in to consideration!
 - I have been in ministry for nearly 30 years and I have seen many folks leave churches and about 90 percent of the time the first words out there mouth is pastor it's not you we love your preaching and teaching.
 - Now if I understand the scripture right and you are getting fed the Word of God and you are not being called away to serve somewhere else then next words out of your mouth should so we are going to find a way to work things out with my brother and sisters in Christ and lodge where you lodge!
 - C. Ruth was dedicated and loyal to Naomi because (as we are going to see in a moment Ruth knew Naomi's God!
 1. She knew that where she was going there was going to be time when she would be rejected and talked about and not received well.
 - But you see Ruth was dedicated and she was loyal and there was nothing people were going to do change that!

Transition: Ruth was going to stay where Naomi was going to stay because Naomi was following God!

- A. I will go where you go I will stay where you stay!
 - Those are Word of someone that is dedicated and loyal!
 - Could we shout those words to God!
 - Could we answer when called like Isaiah Here I am send me!
 - Could we say no to some things because God has to first in our lives because we are that dedicated?
 - Could we change our schedules to reflect where our true loyalties lie?
- Where you go I will go! Where you stay I will stay!

III. Your People Will be My People verse 16

- A. Can I confess something to you this morning until God change my heart I didn't like people very much.
 1. That is a true story ...
 2. I was not the perfect candidate to be called to the pastorate as you can imagine not liking people and all.
 - But God did an amazing work in my heart and now probably my greatest weakness is that my heart is too soft.
- But it hasn't always been that way!
 - B. But when you dedicate your life to serving God then you are dedicating your life to serving His people. Warts and All!
 - As my brother or sister in Christ you don't have to like me very much but you have to love me like crazy!
 - C. Can I say something here as you pastor unless you harm one of God little ones which if you do may God have mercy on your soul.

- Let me just say it like this I got your back!
- Church I have lived it! I have been slandered, I have been gossiped (not sure if that's a word), I have been back bitten and but we must still refuse to return the favor because God's people are our people.
- If we are dedicated and loyal to the cause of Christ then the very people that we often seek to exact revenge on are our people and we need to simply work it out for the sake of Christ.

Transition: Now in this little speech of Ruth's we see such dedication and loyalty but in this last phrase we see where it is all coming from!

IV.