

Keeping it Real by Going Deeper!

(GBC Sunday July 19th 2020 - Ps Ben C)

The Passage & The Message: Ruth 1-2

Getting Started:

What's a time when you've experienced self-sacrificial love from someone and it 'breathed life' into you?

Open in Prayer:

Going Deeper:

Sunday's message was built around three main points from Ruth 1-2.

Firstly - Elimelech and his family sought 'life' outside the land where God promised to bless his people. However, instead of finding life they only found death and emptiness.

Q 1. What **Stood** out to you most from this first point and is this helpful?

Q 2. What **Puzzled** you or troubled you or caused you to ask questions about anything that you hadn't necessarily thought about much before, due to this first point?

Q 3. What did you **Learn** about God and His people, from this first point?

Q 4. For Christians today, the place where God promises to bless his people is *in Christ*. In what ways are you tempted to seek life and blessing outside of Christ? Have you ever found true, soul-satisfying life and blessing outside of him or was your experience more like Naomi's?

Secondly – God had 'emptied' Naomi, but he also planned to 'fill' her up again. **God planned to 'fill' Naomi through the loving commitment of her Moabite daughter-in-law, Ruth.** God moved Ruth's heart to commit to stay with Naomi even when, humanly speaking, it would've been better for Ruth to return to her home in Moab.

Q 1. What **Stood** out to you most from this second point and is this helpful?

Q 2. What **Puzzled** you or troubled you or caused you to ask questions about anything that you hadn't necessarily thought about much before, due to this second point?

Q 3. What did you **Learn** about God and His people, from this second point?

Q 4. For Christians today, Ruth's commitment to Naomi gives a vivid picture of the sort of commitment to Jesus that God is looking for from his people. Commitment to leave everything else behind to go where Jesus goes, to follow in his steps, to be committed to Jesus' people, to commit to Jesus' God and to commit for life. This was costly for sure, but Ruth's loving commitment to Naomi brings life to Naomi, but also to Ruth herself and so for Christians who commit to Christ, we too find that Christ-like, self-sacrificial love brings life to ourselves and those around us. What holds us back from all-in commitment to Christ? How can we encourage each other to make that commitment despite the cost?

Thirdly – When Naomi and Ruth turned back to God's place, they found a redeemer and he was more good and kind than they could've asked for. His goodness moved them to wonder and thankfulness.

Q 1. What **Stood** out to you most from this third point and is this helpful?

Q 2. What **Puzzled** you or troubled you or caused you to ask questions about anything that you hadn't necessarily thought about much before, due to this third point?

Q 3. What did you **Learn** about God and His people, from this third point?

Q 4. For Christians today, Jesus is God's place. And all who turn to Jesus will find a redeemer who is more kind and gracious and good than we could ever hope or imagine.

When was the last time you were simply awestruck and full of wonder and amazement at God's goodness to you? What stops us living lives full of wonder, awe and thankfulness at God's goodness? How can we cultivate lives of awe of God's goodness and thankfulness to him?

Lastly Ask Yourself:

Q 5. What will you **Talk** to God or others about?

a. So what things are we taught about God within these verses **that we can tell others** be they churched or un- churched, converted or un-converted.

List them below:

b. So what will you now **talk to God** about this verse and message?

Will you pray differently? Will you come to Him with greater awareness of His sovereignty, love, and power? Are there attitudes or patterns of thinking that you feel you need to confess to Him? Are there new ways you want to express your thanks to him? Please take the time you need to turn your Going Deeper into real prayer.

Grace and Peace to you as we **'Keep it Real by Going Deeper'** by taking both God's and our concerns to Him through prayer.