

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

*Matriarchs - Ruth*

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*December 13th, 2020*

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** What is your favorite musical instrument and why?

**Reading:** Ruth 1:1-18

### Outline:

- I. God's Faithfulness (v. 1, Judges 21:25)
  - a. God's faithfulness to his promises is not dependent on circumstances or our obedience.
  - b. If God's faithfulness is not dependent on us, there is no room for fear when it comes to the future of the Church.  
**Q: At this point Israel had abandoned their covenant, but what does God do?**
- II. Ruth's Compassion (v. 15-18)
  - a. Ruth binds herself to Naomi, not out of any legal obligation, but out of compassion.
  - b. We care for the needy, we defend the weak, and we advocate for the marginalized as a marker of our faith.  
**Q: How does this shape our understanding of what it means to be God's people?**
- III. Ruth's Obedience (Ruth 3:1-5)
  - a. Ruth acts in accord with Naomi's plan, which would protect their livelihood and keep the property in the family.
  - b. The main thing preventing us from walking that path of trust is our need for instant gratification.  
**Q: Which commandments does Ruth embody in her obedience here?**

### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Can you think of another example in which human obedience had no impact on God's promises?
- 2) Do you ever fear for the future of the church, even when we know God has a plan?
- 3) How can you practice this level of compassion in your daily life? Do you think you would face any challenges to showing compassion?
- 4) Have you noticed the need for instant gratification impacting your life?
- 5) Have you ever felt that present suffering caused you to forget all that God has in store for you?

### Suggestions for further study:

- Ephesians 2:12-19 **Q: How do these verses describe how we are reunited with God?**
- Romans 5:2-5 **Q: How does Paul remind us that great things can be worth waiting for?**
- Colossians 3:12-14 **Q: How do these verses line up with Ruth's actions?**

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, in Ruth we see a picture of your faithfulness. We also see an invitation to walk in faithfulness, compassion, and obedience. God, we ask that you would work this in us through the power of your Spirit, that you would cast out our fear and draw us to you. We pray that we would live as witnesses to the goodness and faithfulness that you have shown throughout all of history. We ask this in the name of your son Jesus, Amen.