
THE ASHLAND
CHURCH OF CHRIST IN 2009

“Note Those Who So Walk”

Philippians 3:17

2Thessalonians 3:14

“Note Those Who So Walk”

Ruth – The Beautiful Gleaner

Text: Ruth

Ruth 1:16-17, “But Ruth said: ‘Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.’”

I. **The plot** (Chapter 1).

- A. The prelude – People in strange land leaving God for fear of the famine (1-5).
- B. The predicament – the men of the story pass away and Naomi wants to return to her homeland (6-18).
- C. The postlude – Ruth shows loyalty to Naomi by returning with her and caring for her (19-22).

II. **The provision** (Chapter 2).

- A. The predicament – the widows have no money but God provides for them through the work of gleaning (1-3).

- B. The person – Boaz is a kind businessman interested in Ruth (4-13).
- C. The privilege – Boaz allows Ruth to glean even more from his land and protects Ruth (14-23).

III. **The procedure** (Chapter 3).

- A. The plan – Naomi encourages Ruth to make herself presentable to Boaz (1-5).
- B. The proposal – Ruth asks Boaz to perform the duty of levirate marriage (6-13).
- C. The promise – Boaz agrees but only if the closer relative does not want the responsibility (14-18).

IV. **The procurement** (Chapter 4).

- A. The property – Boaz carries out his promise to Ruth and fulfills the duty of levirate marriage (1-4).
- B. The person – the near kinsmen did not want the duty so Boaz took Ruth as his wife (5-12).
- C. The point – to this union was born Obed, an ancestor to David and eventually to Joseph and Mary (13-22).

Conclusion:

1. God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34).
2. The erring returning to God can bring great blessings.
3. We see the value of living for God even in old age when we are not able to do as much as perhaps we once were.
4. We learn the value of loyalty. Ruth demonstrated loyalty to Naomi and Boaz demonstrated loyalty to Ruth. All demonstrated loyalty to God.
5. We learn that God’s providence is real and will take care of us in times of distress.