# April 4, 2022

## **Last week we talked about seriousness of Ruth’s dedication to her mother in-law Naomi.**

## ***Ruth 1:16 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.***

## ***17 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.”***

## **Ruth is a great example of the attitude a disciple must have in order to produce much fruit for God.**

## **She is also an example of our great reward**

## ***Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he slept with her, the LORD enabled her to become pregnant, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative;***

## ***and may his name be famous in Israel! 15 “And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.”***

## ***16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. 17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “There is a son born to Naomi.” And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.***

## **Ruth in the end had a great reward, and Naomi though crushed, persevered in faith!**

## ***Ruth 2:20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!” And Naomi said to her, “This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.”***

## ***Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary (ekkakomen) while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.***

## **We saw where Ruth began!**

## **But we also saw where she finishes!**

## ***Jas 5:10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.***

## ***11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord–that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.***

## **Working in the flesh will not sustain you in ministry. Feeling, “the call” will not sustain you. Only reliance on the Word Of God and knowing the giftedness in the power of the Holy Spirit will.**

## ***Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.***

## **Remember God gave the gift to us by grace, which is a gift. Why would God make a gift so hard to understand?**

## ***Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,***

## ***4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,***

## **Equipped saint**

## **Working saint (*deed, doing, labor, work)***

## **Building saint (one who gets to have a part of this 1,989-year-old building)**

## ***Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,***

## ***21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.***

## **So now what?**

## **3 things:**

## **Begin to serve in the body.. God has already given you the power**

## **You can take a test BUT without number 1 it’s really handicapped. What a test can do is point you in right direction and clarify but only by doing ministry do you really begin to discover it fully.**

## **Others who know you well will begin to observe it, which is why a small group is so important. NOTE:**

## ***Acts 6:1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.***

## ***2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation,***

## ***full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 “but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”…***

## ***7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.***

## **Giftedness + qualifications + observation = ministry**

## **Remember this:**

## ***Ephesians 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head–Christ–***

## ***16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.***

## **God will reveal but we need to have a “come and see” desire.**

## ***John 1:37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?”***

## ***39 He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).***

## **Next week: Psalm Sunday, do we get this right?**