

THE STORY OF PETER And THE STORY OF RUTH

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

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by

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CHAPTER NINETEEN

RUTH BELONGS TO BOAZ

THAT very morning Boaz went up to the gate of the city, the place where court was held. Very soon the relative nearer than he was to Naomi and Ruth, came. Boaz called to him to sit down with him. The man did, and Boaz summoned ten men, elders of the city, to be the jury and to them he presented the case.

“And he said to the relative, Naomi, that is come again out of Moab, selleth a piece of land, which was our brother Elimelech's; and I thought to tell you, before these jurymen, to buy it. If you will redeem it, all right; but if not, then tell me, for there is no one else to do so but you, first; then I am next in line.”

The relative said he would redeem it. Then Boaz said, “Of course you know that whoever redeems the property will not only have to buy it, but take Ruth, the Moabite, for his wife, so that children may have an inheritance.”

The man said that it would be impossible for him to do so. Such a deed would spoil his inheritance. Doubtless he had a wife and could not take another. He told Boaz to go ahead and redeem the land. Boaz' heart must have been full of joy at those words.

“Now,” he might have said to himself, “everything is out of the way and I can have the one I love.”

Long, long ago, they had a very queer custom of acknowledging a sale of land. When a buyer took possession of certain land he walked upon it with his shoes on. The seller took off his shoe and handed it to the buyer as a sign that the land was no longer his. So at the time of our story this nearest relative took off his shoe and handed it to Boaz and said, “Buy it for yourself.”

“And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, You are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech’s and all that was Chilion’s and Mahlon’s, of the hand of Naomi. Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: you are my witnesses this day.”

“And all of the people that were in the gate, and the elders said, We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman that is come to your house like Rachel and Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: we wish you to become worthy in Ephratah, and famous in Bethlehem: and let your house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the children that the Lord shall give you of this young woman.”

What a fine bridal benediction that was!

So, beautiful Ruth became the wife of the noble God-fearing Boaz. In time a son was born to them and they called him Obed.

Neighbor women gathered around grandma Naomi to congratulate her upon the birth of a grandson. They said, **“Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left you this day without a near relative, that his name may be famous in Israel.”**

And then they told her that this baby would be such a joy to her that she would not feel old, but young again. She would have someone to care for her when old age came. They said, Ruth, the mother of little Obed had been so good to Naomi that she was worth seven sons.

I think the sorrows and heartaches of the past were forgotten as Naomi held that baby close and took care of him.

Obed, when he grew up, became the father of Jesse. He in turn became the father of David. So you see this son of Ruth and Boaz was a member of the house of David and through that house or family came our Lord Jesus Christ.

This short love story had a beautiful and happy ending, did it not?

What does this delightful story or record mean? Why did God put it in His inspired Book?

There must be a reason. We look for pictures—word pictures—of the Lord Jesus Christ.

See if you can find them in this story.

I found one.

Boaz became Ruth’s redeemer and took her to himself. The Lord Jesus Christ became our Redeemer and brought us to Himself.

Some think Ruth, who was a Gentile, is a picture of the Church, which is the Bride of Christ.

See if you can find some helpful lessons in the story. I think there is one in Elimelech. In a time of famine, he thought to better himself by moving outside the land of God's promises. Three of his family died, he and his two sons. When the mother, Naomi, returned to her country, she wanted her name changed to Mara, which means bitter, because she had been through so much trouble.

Christians today, who look away from God see the things of the world all bright and attractive. Sometimes they move back into the world. However, they never fail to find, as Naomi did, only bitterness for going there.

Ruth, a heathen maid, came to know God through Naomi who lived a right life among strangers.

When Ruth found the true God she forsook idolatry, father, mother, friends and native land to follow where He led. Never did she turn back or regret her decision to go to Canaan. She accepted God just as she was, penniless and in sorrow. What a reward came to her!

Boaz, rich, popular, which is included in the words, "**A mighty man of wealth,**" was, with his advantages, a man who kept the faith of the God of Israel and so lived that he and his God were honored among his friends and servants. He dwelt in the midst of a wicked and sinful people and in a time of spiritual poverty, yet he did not permit that fact to be an excuse to live on a low moral level. Instead, like the lily that grows up through the slime and mud and turns its face toward the sun, so Boaz, among a sinful people turned his face in all the richness of his magnificent manhood, upward toward the God of his fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

What was there in Boaz and Ruth that made God honor and reward them? The answer is, "**A mighty faith in Him.**"

Someone has beautifully said that, "Far down the centuries there shone a light at midnight, and songs were heard, and in the direct line of Boaz (a man of Judah and of privilege) and of Ruth (a woman of Moab and of limitations) to Bethlehem came the King. They did not live to see the reward of their fidelity, but God found foothold in the man and woman of faith, and in their united lives.

What is Faith?

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

~ end of book ~

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