

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ruth 1:14-18.**
- B. The book of Ruth is a short one but has a purpose in being in the OT.
- C. As we read, we are familiar w/Ruth 1.16 as it is read at many weddings. However, it is a quote from a woman to her mother-in-law.
- D. As we are to read the OT for our instruction and good examples, we can study from the book of Ruth tonight and learn about serving God.
- E. We shall look at four things:
 - 1. Ruth desired to do right (1:14-15).
 - 2. Ruth was ready to go (1:16).
 - 3. Ruth was going to be diligent to death (1:17).
 - 4. Ruth went about life with diligence (1:18).

I. **RUTH DESIRED TO DO RIGHT.**

- A. Scripture text: Ruth 1:14-15.
And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. 15 Then she said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law."
- B. People have much less trouble getting things done when they have the desire to do it.
- C. Matthew 28:18-20 says, "...*teach them to observe all things commanded*" and this is much easier accomplished when a person desires to do and learn.
- D. Jesus does want mere commandment keepers (Mt. 16:24).
Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."
- E. If a person says that he does not want to do right, he willfully sins. There is no hope of his repentance unto good works until he changes his mind and desires to do right.

II. **RUTH WAS READY TO GO.**

- A. Scripture text: Ruth 1:16.
But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."
- B. Too many people, both in and out of the church, are living their lives in neutral. Instead of going forward they slowly creep downhill.
- C. Jesus completely detests this kind of lifestyle. He would rather one is in reverse or drive.
- D. Some are in neutral and think they are doing good when they rev-up their engines. They come to worship to rev-up their engine, and then remain in neutral the rest of the time (Jas. 1:22).
But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

III. **RUTH WAS GOING TO BE DILIGENT UNTIL DEATH.**

- A. Scripture text: Ruth 1:17.
"Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me."
- B. Someone once asked Red Skelton when he was going to retire and his reply was, "When they close the lid."
- C. This is the verse that should be used at weddings to show forth the commitment of the marriage vows. I think there used to be song entitled, "I'll go to my grave loving you" and this should be the theme of every marriage.
- D. Our commitment to X is like a marriage and we should resolve to go to our grave loving and serving

God.

- E. May we continue to grow in grace and knowledge. May we serve faithfully unto death. May we work till Jesus comes (2Pet. 3:18; Rev. 2:10).
(2Pet 3:18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
(Rev 2:10) 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

IV. RUTH WENT ABOUT LIFE WITH DILIGENCE.

- A. Scripture text: Ruth 1:18.
When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.
- B. Naomi saw that she was not going to change Ruth's mind about things.
- C. Those who do things with great diligence want their reward very badly. How bad do you want to go to heaven?
- D. A look at diligence (Eph. 4:3; 2Tim. 2:15; Heb. 4:11; 2Pet. 1:10; 3:14-15a).
(Eph 4:3) being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
(2Tim 2:15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.
(Heb 4:11) Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience.
(2Pet 1:10) Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;
(2Pet 3:14-15a) Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, **15** and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation;
- E. Some questions to consider:
1. How firmly are we grounded in the commitment we have made to Jesus?
 2. Do things often get in the way?
 3. Is church and working for Jesus one of the things we try to fit in once in a while or is it our life's work?
- F. This point on diligence goes hand in hand with the previous point on being faithful unto death.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Our rubies from Ruth are:
1. We should desire to do right.
 2. We should be ready to go.
 3. We should serve faithfully unto death.
 4. We should be firm in mind, diligent in our service.
- B. Ruth is very special because from her marriage to Boaz, came a man called Obed, the father of Jesse who is the father of David. Because of Ruth's commitment and faithfulness she, as a Gentile, is included in the lineage to X.
- C. May we strive to have the courage and commitment of Ruth.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.