

Ruth Ruth 1-4

Introduction:

In **Ruth 3:11**, Boaz refers to Ruth as “a virtuous woman.” As we notice the life of Ruth that we have recorded, notice what it is that makes her a virtuous woman. We will also refer to **Proverbs 31:10-31** for more details (which was written by Lemuel).

I. She loved her family more than she loved herself (**1:1-22**).

- A. Ruth was married to Naomi’s son (**1:1-5**).
 - 1. Naomi and her son were Jews who had traveled to Moab because of the famine in Judah.
 - 2. While in Moab, Ruth’s husband (Naomi’s son) died.
- B. After the death of Naomi’s husband and the husband of her two sons, Naomi decides to go back to her home in Judah (**1:6-14**).
 - 1. Before they left, Naomi gave both Ruth and Orpah an opportunity to turn back and go to their own homes (**1:8-13**).
 - 2. Orpah decides to return to her family, while Ruth remained with Naomi (**1:14**).
- C. The events that happen next is what makes Ruth a truly “virtuous woman” (**1:15-22**).
 - 1. Naomi again pleads with Ruth to go home (**1:15**).
 - 2. However, notice what Ruth says to her (**1:16-17**).
 - a. These words are some of the most famous throughout the Bible.
 - b. In fact, they have been used many times at weddings.
 - c. It is very interesting that the words used most at weddings are used not to describe a husband-wife relationship; but rather they describe a woman and her daughter-in-law.
 - 3. When Naomi discovered that she could not persuade Ruth, she stopped speaking to her and allowed her to return with her.
- D. Ruth was a virtuous woman because she loved her family more than herself.
 - 1. We know that she loved Naomi because she could have left her and gone back home.
 - 2. We also know that she loved Naomi because she provided for her (as we will look at in a few moments).
 - 3. Notice what is said about this kind of love in **Proverbs 31**.
 - a. **Pr. 31:11** - The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.
 - b. **Pr. 31:12** - She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.
 - c. **Pr. 31:27** - She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.
 - d. **Pr. 31:28-29** - Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: {29} "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."

II. She provided for her family (2:1-23).

- A. Ruth goes to the field to gather food for Naomi and herself (2:1-3).
- B. Boaz notices Ruth gleaning from his field and provides more food for her (2:4-16).
 - 1. Notice especially 2:14-16.
 - 2. Boaz makes sure that she is well taken care of.
- C. Ruth returns to Naomi and gives her the food that has been provided to her (2:17-23).
- D. Ruth demonstrated that she was a “virtuous woman” in that she provided for the needs of her household.
 - 1. Pr. 31:13-19 - She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands. {14} She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar. {15} She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants. {16} She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard. {17} She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. {18} She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night. {19} She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle.
 - 2. Pr. 31:21-22 - She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet. {22} She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
 - 3. Pr. 31:24 - She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.

III. She was faithful to the laws of the land in regard to her redemption (3:1-4:12).

- A. Remember, Ruth was a Moabite (1:4).
 - 1. She did not have to follow the laws of the Jews.
 - 2. In fact, she had the opportunity to leave the country (1:11-15).
 - 3. Yet she refused to go, but stayed with Naomi (1:16-18).
 - 4. If she had left, she would have been free to marry anyone she wished.
 - a. The same is true in our country today.
 - b. If you are not married, you can marry anyone else who is not married.
 - c. Of course, in the Lord’s church, there are different rules (Mt. 19).
- B. However, in spite of this choice that she had, she followed the laws of Israel when it came to remarrying.
 - 1. Deut. 25:5-10 - “If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. {6} And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. {7} But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he

will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.' {8} Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him; and if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,' {9} then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.' {10} And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'”

2. Remember, she did not have to do this, yet she did anyway.
- C. She is called a virtuous woman because she followed the laws that God had established.

Conclusion:

Ruth was a virtuous woman. She loved Naomi more than she loved herself. She provided for Naomi. She also followed the laws of the land concerning her marrying of Boaz.

Because Ruth was faithful to God, great things came through her. Ruth was the great grandmother of David (4:13-22). She is also in the lineage of Christ.