

## 100 Bible Stories

### 34. Ruth

#### The Book of Ruth (NKJV)

Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup>Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. <sup>4</sup>Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. <sup>5</sup>Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup>Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread. <sup>7</sup>Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>The Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband. . . ." <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?"

<sup>14</sup>Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup>And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup>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. . ." <sup>18</sup>When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her. <sup>19</sup>Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem...at the time of the barley harvest.

<sup>21</sup>There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz. <sup>2</sup>So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor. . ." <sup>8</sup>Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. <sup>9</sup>Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them . . ." <sup>17</sup>So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. <sup>18</sup>Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. . .

<sup>31</sup>Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? <sup>2</sup>Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup>Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup>Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." <sup>5</sup>And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."

<sup>6</sup>So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. <sup>7</sup>And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. <sup>8</sup>Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. <sup>9</sup>And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

<sup>10</sup>Then he said, "Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. <sup>11</sup>And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous

History of one family in the midst of Israel in the age of the Judges....

Curiously a common text chosen for marriage homilies.

See Deut. 25.2f.  
Vulnerability/trust...

woman. <sup>12</sup>Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. <sup>13</sup>Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the Lord lives! Lie down until morning. . . ”

<sup>16</sup>When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “Is that you, my daughter?” Then she told her all that the man had done for her. <sup>17</sup>And she said, “These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’ ” <sup>18</sup>Then she said, “Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.

<sup>4</sup><sup>1</sup>Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, “Come aside, friend, sit down here.” So he came aside and sat down. <sup>2</sup>And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down. <sup>3</sup>Then he said to the close relative, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. <sup>4</sup>And I thought to inform you, saying, ‘Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.’ ” And he said, “I will redeem it.” <sup>5</sup>Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance.”

<sup>6</sup>And the close relative said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it.” <sup>7</sup>Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself.” So he took off his sandal. <sup>9</sup>And Boaz said to the elders and 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, from the hand of Naomi. <sup>10</sup>Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day. . . ”

<sup>13</sup>So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. . . <sup>17</sup>And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

<sup>18</sup>Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; <sup>19</sup>Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; <sup>20</sup>Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; <sup>21</sup>Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; <sup>22</sup>Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

See Matthew 1. 5