

The Book of Ruth – Part Six

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Adapted from John Herbert's Notes; Presented by Jim Robison

1). Let's remind ourselves once again that the Book of Ruth is a type, a word picture, of the events in the life of the faithful Christian – the one who will be found worthy at Christ's Judgment Seat, who will hear the words –

a). Matthew 25:21

"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

2). We have seen over past weeks how these events in the faithful Christian's life have related to making a journey from the land of our birth to the land of our calling – a heavenly land, the heavenly realm of the Kingdom.

a). We have seen these events in relation to working in the field, during the time of harvest, for a complete period of time. I hope, too, that we have realized that although these events are presented in chronological order within Ruth, they do in fact happen concurrently with one another. And along with the journey and the work, we also have the subject of our study this morning – the preparation. All of which conclude at the same point – the Judgment Seat of Christ.

3). At the conclusion of Ruth Chapter 2 – the chapter that deals with the harvest – this is recorded –

Ruth 2:23

So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

a). We see Ruth staying close by the young women of Boaz, who picture for us those Christians who are working in the same field, looking to the same prize...those we would see represented by the five wise virgins.

b). We see Ruth gleaning, picking up that which had been left for her, and beating out the grain for a complete period of time.

c). The reference to barley points to things that can only take place upon passing from death into life and the reference to wheat points to a continuous process of dying to self and walking in the spirit subsequent to our new birth.

d). And throughout this time, let's not forget that Ruth dwells with her mother-in-law, Naomi.

e). Naomi is a picture of the nation of Israel, and by implication she is also a picture of that which has come through that nation – the Word of God.

4). For the faithful Christian, then, it will be the Word of God that has directed them on their journey and the Word of God that has equipped them for work in the field during the time of harvest.

a). 2Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

5). With this essential and intimate connection between the faithful Christian and God's Word in mind, let's look at how the next chapter of Ruth begins.

a). Ruth 3:1

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?"

b). The mention of rest in relation to our picture of the faithful Christian can only be pointing to one thing – the Seventh Day, the Millennial Kingdom of Christ

c). Hebrews 4:9

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest.....

d). And it is only through our correct engagement with the Word of God that we will be able to enter that rest – and our correct engagement requires diligence on our part.

6). Note the next verse in Ruth 3 –

Ruth 3:2

"Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

a). Again, it is only through the Word of God that we come into an understanding that Boaz, a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, is our relative. As we see in –

b). Galatians 3:29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

c). It is only through the Word of God that we understand that a time of Judgment is coming-

Luke 3:17

"His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

d). 2Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

e). 1Peter 4:17a

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God;

7). And it is only by the Word of God that we may be properly prepared for our appearance at the Judgment Seat. Naomi continues -

a). Ruth 3:3a

"Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor;

b). And here in the first 11 words of this third verse of Ruth Chapter 3, we have the most precise and concise presentation of the process of preparation for the Christian that can be found anywhere in scripture - wash yourself and anoint yourself, and put on your best garment.

c). And as we would expect, the washing, anointing and putting on the best garment are all interrelated, all interconnected and take place concurrently with each other and concurrently with the journey and the work in the harvest. And ALL are taught to us through the Word.

8) So let's understand the first part of the preparation - Wash Yourself.

9). In order to place this in context, let's remember that we are dealing with the preparation of a Christian to be part of the Bride of Christ. This preparation takes place as a result of the Word of God and remember -

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God.....14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt
among us,

a). God and His Word cannot be separated from one another.

b). In essence then, it is God Himself who prepares us through His Word.

10). Now let us go back to our foundational type for Christ and His Bride – Adam and the Woman.

a). Genesis 2:21

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

b). We see God taking a part of the Man's body and literally building it into the woman who He then presented back to the Man as his bride.

c). And we know of course –

Romans 5:14b....Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

d). Therefore what we have read is a picture of the process that must take place in respect of Christ and His Bride – exactly what we find in –

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

e). Paul tells us that this picture of Christ and His church has been hidden for a long time, that the picture of marriage that we live out in the physical aspects of our lives is really all about Christ and His Wife. And so the picture of marriage seen throughout all of the Scriptures is really all about Christ and His Bride. And so it is interesting to read Boaz say this in Ruth –

i/ Ruth 2:11

And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

ii/ In this passage we can clearly see how Ruth embodied the following verse concerning marriage –

Genesis 2:24

For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

iii/ Ruth left her mother and father... one must *leave* in order to *cleave*.

iv/ And in the same manner as Ruth, if we are to find ourselves in the position of cleaving to our husband (Christ), we too need to leave and cleave. We need to leave behind all things associated with our first birth, our first home – the world. We need to leave like Ruth did. You can't cleave unless you leave *first*.

e). And we should notice something of significance in our Ephesians scripture – Christ gave Himself that He might cleanse the Church with the washing of water by the word.

f). The cleansing is *for the church* and happens subsequent to His 'being given.'

g). So we are obviously not looking here in Ephesians at 'cleansing' connected to our eternal salvation, but at cleansing connected to age-lasting salvation – the salvation of the soul.

11). And this is exactly what we see in the antitype of our Genesis 2 scripture where Christ is put into a deep sleep on the Cross of Calvary-

a). John 19:32

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

b). Now please note – our eternal redemption is based upon Christ's death and the blood shed in connection with His death.

c). At the point we see His side opened, He is already dead. And therefore, events connected to eternal redemption have already passed.

d). As in the type of Adam, that taken from Christ's side will be used to build the Bride from a part of His Body - a Body already in existence because of His death. He gave Himself to provide eternal redemption that He might then cleanse the eternally redeemed.

12). This is the very thing that Christ taught His disciples just before His death, on the night of the Last Supper when washing their feet - drawing as He always did from the scriptural types.

a). Let's first look at the type and then the foot-washing episode itself.

13). Exodus 29:4

"And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water.

a). The literal definition of the word for 'wash' here signifies a complete washing of the entire body from head to toe, which is something that took place only one time and never had to be repeated.

b). And upon entering the priesthood, this complete washing *had to take place*. You could not be a priest without first being completely washed.

c). Here were priests who would be ministering before the Lord, in the Tabernacle of Meeting, within an earthly land in which the Theocratic Kingdom was to be established -

Exodus 19:6 '

And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

d). Now note this in -

Exodus 30:17

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 18 "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, 19 "for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. 20 "When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die. 21 "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them-to him and his descendants throughout their generations."

e). In our scripture here we see a continual process of washing the hands and the feet that has to take place *after* the complete washing.

f). The priests ministering between the bronze laver in the outer-court and the Holy Place of the tabernacle became defiled during the course of their ministry. They still lived in the world where sin and death were present and they still possessed their old sin nature, the man of flesh. Ministering under these conditions, this defilement was demonstrated in their hands and feet becoming dirty, and thereby in need of cleansing.

g). And if they did not deal with their defilement before entering the Holy Place, the scripture says they would die – they would be cut off from their role of priest and cut off from the Theocratic Kingdom – however, *not cut off from God*.

14). In the antitype of our Exodus scriptures we see Christians who have an identical calling in a heavenly land –

1Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

a). Christians, who are washed from head to foot at their new birth – their sin in relation to eternity being completely removed – an action in relation to eternity that never has to happen again.

b). But then, in order to minister in God's presence in the time of the Kingdom the Christian must continually wash the contamination of sin from themselves in the present time – a cleansing that we must appropriate that is provided by Christ Himself through His blood on the Mercy Seat.

i/ We still live in the world where sin and death are, and we still possess our old sin nature and we become contaminated.

c). This is just what Jesus taught at the Last Supper.

15). John 13:2

And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only,

but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

- a). We just read that Jesus *knew* that the Father had given all things into His hands (all things in heaven and all things on earth Col. 1:16-23), things pertaining to rulership. Jesus knew *even before the cross* that the Father had already given those things to Him. And Jesus knows that He comes from God and He knows that He's about to go back to God, and He knows that when He gets back to God He has a role and function to fill – that of the high priest, ministering on behalf of His people for their sins. That is why Jesus puts the towel around His waist, because it pictured that which the high priest wore, *a sash around the waist*. This is pointing to His high priestly ministry.
- b). Then the same picture continues in the above passage, as Jesus (picturing the role that He would soon be filling once His death, resurrection, and ascension were complete) pours water in a basin to wash His disciples' feet – pointing to the act of spiritually washing and cleansing them as The High Priest.
- c). So who is doing the washing and cleaning? Jesus.
- d). What are we to do? Let him.
- e). So what happens if we don't let Him wash us and cleans us presently as our High Priest? What does Jesus say to Peter when he comments that he doesn't want the Lord to wash him? **"If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."**
- f). What "part" are we to have with Him? A part in His Kingdom as His Bride, whom He gave Himself for *so that He could wash her...* so that she would be spotless and holy in order that she could be presented back to Him. *So that the two could be one flesh.*
- 16). The present High priestly ministry of Christ, the picture of the Levitical priesthood in the Tabernacle, and the spiritual truth taught here by the Lord are all brought together for us in –

1John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- 17). So then if we are going to be prepared for Christ's Judgment Seat...if we are going to be kings and priests unto our God...if we are going to have a part with Him in His Kingdom,

then we need to deal with the contamination of sin in our lives *as a continuous process*. The knowledge of our sin and the solution for it both come from the Word of God.

a). From the Word as the light of truth shines in our darkness ...

b). And by The Word, whose blood on the Mercy Seat cleanses us.

a). Failure to go to Him for cleansing will have the same dire consequences for us as it did for the Levitical priests.

18).

Isaiah 1:15

When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. 16 ¶ "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil,

a). Job 17:9

Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.

b). Psalm 24:3

Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

19). And finally let us be encouraged -

Hebrews 4:11

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.