

INWORD IN HONOR OF MOM: Ruth 1:16-17 Devo

On the occasion of InWord's challenge for Mother's Day 2017, and in honor of my mom, this is a devotional built around one of her favorite Bible passages.



Intro

- During the time of the judges (and, thus, the book of Judges) an Israelite family (parents and two sons) sojourned to nearby Moab to find relief from the famine in their land. After they settled the father died. The two sons then married Moabite women, but about 10 years later the sons also died leaving their mom Naomi with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. When Naomi learned that God had rescued her people from the famine back home she determined it was time to return, insisting that the daughters-in-law stay with their people in Moab.

This set up an unprecedented, and now famous, moment of loyalty and commitment.

Digging In

- As you experience this passage, make notes on what you observe. Here are some prompts to use as a guide. You may want to mark your observations in the text or journal them under Taking It Inward below or type them into a doc.

1. What does Ruth commit to?
2. What traits of faith is Ruth exhibiting?
3. What personality traits is Ruth exhibiting?

Ruth 1:16-19

¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return 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. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. ¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem.

Taking It Inward

1. What does Ruth commit to?
2. What traits of faith is Ruth exhibiting?
3. What personality traits is Ruth exhibiting?

Digging Deeper

- So you might be wondering what became of Ruth and Naomi. In the case of Naomi and her daughters-in-law, there was no male heir. So Hebrew law called for the husband's nearest kin to marry the surviving widow (or in this case, the widowed daughter-in-law) to keep the family name and inheritance intact. After a nearer kinsman refused, Boaz, a kinsman who was moved by Ruth's faithfulness, agreed to take Ruth as his wife. They eventually gave birth to a son, as noted below:

Ruth 4:13-17

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.



● Taking It Inward

- In the first chunk of Scripture, Naomi was preparing to return to Bethlehem from Moab, a journey of 7-10 days by some estimates, when Ruth made her historic commitment. Think about that. Ruth latched on to her mother-in-law out of sheer faithfulness and commitment, knowing she was signing up for many unknowns: hard travel, financial insecurity, and much more. She was leading with faithfulness and leaving the outcome to God.

And what an outcome. Did you catch the last four words of that last passage? (Ruth 4:17)

● Putting Into Practice

- There is much to mine out and apply from this short book of the Bible (only four chapters), including the picture of redemption as exemplified through Boaz. But for now, let's simply focus on Ruth and her commitment to her mother-in-law Naomi.

Traits:

What traits of Ruth would you like to imitate, both in your faith and your personality?

Circumstances:

What situations do you have going on in your life in which God may be asking you to trust Him for the outcome despite the unknowns you see in front of you?

What situations do you have going on in your life in which you need to do the next right thing simply because it's the right thing to do?

Relationships:

How can Ruth's example enhance your friendships?

How can Ruth's example enhance your family relationships?

Now act. For each response to the questions above, take a step within the next 24 hours that reflects your renewed commitment to do the right thing simply because it's the right thing to do.