

## **Finding Hope in a God Who Provides The Faithfulness of Hope**

**Judges 21:25** - *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

**Romans 15:4** - *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

**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."*

**Ruth 1:20-21** - *... "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?"*

3 ways faithful people bless others and build hope:

### **I. Protection**

A. Boaz took specific steps to protect Ruth's reputation

**Ruth 3:9** - *...I am Ruth your maid. So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative.*

**Ruth 3:14** - *... "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."*

"Boaz could have treated her as Moabite trash, scavenging in the garbage cans of Israel, and then corrupting the people with her whorish behavior, but with the true hesed of his own, he sees her as a woman equal in status and character to himself" (D. I. Block, *Judges, Ruth*, p. 695).

B. He understood and fulfilled his responsibility to be "the refuge of God's wings" in Ruth's life

**Ruth 2:12** - *May the Lord reward your work, and your wages be full from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge.*

**Ruth 3:9** - *...spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative.*

"In Boaz's mind this triggers a memory, recalling to him his previous words, '...under whose wings you have come to seek refuge.' Once this correspondence has been made, the full meaning and implications of his previous words flood in upon him...In a moment the process of understanding is completed. Everything culminates and merges in this image of ingathering: the wings of the Lord sweeping in to Himself the people, the arms of Boaz gathering in to himself the maiden Ruth, the arms of the young men drawing into the barns the grain. It is a moment of imaginative splendor and depth" (Rauber, D. "Literary Values in the Bible: The Book of Ruth", JBL 89, 1970, p. 33).

C. Husbands

**1 Peter 3:7** - *Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

**Proverbs 25:28** - *A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.*

**James 1:19-20** - *This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.*

D. Wives

**Ephesians 5:33** - *...the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*

E. For children

**Ephesians 6:2** - *Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise)*

F. For friends

**Proverbs 27:17** - *Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

## II. Provision

A. Boaz gave Ruth another significant amount of grain

**Ruth 3:15** - *Again he said, "Give me the cloak that is on you and hold it." So she held it, and he measured six measures of barley and laid it on her.*

B. The explanation of the gift

**Ruth 3:16** - *When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did it go, my daughter?" And she told her all that the man had done for her.*

**Ruth 3:17** - *She said, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said, 'Do not go to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'"*

**Ruth 1:21** - *I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?*

C. The same is true for our Redeemer today

**John 10:10** - *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

**Proverbs 14:12** - *There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

**James 1:14-15** - *But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*

**Romans 5:8** - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

D. We can model this aspect of God's character by providing for others

**Philippians 2:3-4** - *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

### III. Predictability

A. Naomi knew that Boaz would do his part quickly

**Ruth 3:18** - *Then she said, "Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; for the man will not rest until he has settled it today."*

B. But how do you know when to wait, and when to act?

1. Is this something that God has commanded you to do now?

a. Solve problems with others now, before worshipping

**Matthew 5:24** - *leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.*

b. Use your anger to communicate biblically before the sun goes down

**Ephesians 4:26** - *Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,*

c. Trust Christ and Savior and Lord now

**2 Corinthians 6:2** - *for He says, at the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation.*

d. Too many people confuse God's "commands" with "suggestions" and God's "now" with "when I feel like getting around to it"

2. Have you received counsel?

**Proverbs 11:14** - *Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory.*

3. Have you done your part?

**Ruth 3:18** - *Then she said, "Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; for the man will not rest until he has settled it today."*

4. Should you go into a holding pattern?

**Romans 14:23** - *But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.*

C. Your predictability will make it easier for others to wait