

Your People My People, Your God My God; Ruth 1:15-16

I. Visible Difference

- A. There has to be a visible difference between the people of God and others
- B. If the people of God behave like everyone else, what is the draw?
- C. People must look at us and say to themselves, "Why do they behave that way?"

II. Your People

- A. Ruth 1:1-14
- B. "Clung to her" - stick to, cleave to, hold to; to be stuck to each other
 - 1. Genesis 2:24; Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
 - 2. 2 Kings 5:27; Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow.
 - 3. Psalm 63:8; My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.
 - 4. Psalm 119:30-31; 30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your rules before me. 31 I cling to your testimonies, O Lord; let me not be put to shame!
- C. In spite of the devastation To Ruth's family (the death of Naomi's husband and children) she sees something in Naomi to make her want to stay
 - 1. Ruth 1:19-21; 19 So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" 20 She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 21 I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"
 - 2. Naomi even tries to warn her and send her back to her people (1:15)
- D. Ruth "clung" to Naomi and to God!

III. Boaz

- A. Ruth 2:1-7; 1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." 3 So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. 4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." 5 Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" 6 And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."
- B. Leviticus 23:22; "And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God."
- C. There was a visible difference between Boaz and the other field owners
 - 1. Ruth 2:22; And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted."
 - 2. Ruth 2:8-12; 8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. 9 Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the

- young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.” 10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?” 11 But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. 12 The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!”
3. “Refuge” - the original meaning of the Hebrew word is ‘to hide oneself’.
 4. God’s protection
 5. Matthew 23:37; “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
- D. God’s desire is that we take refuge under His wings
1. Do we envision that as a safe place to be?
 - a) Most people do not
 - b) Narrow minded, racist, prude, etc.
 2. Chemosh was a god of the Moabites
 - a) 2 Kings 3:26–27; 26 When the king of Moab saw that the battle was going against him, he took with him 700 swordsmen to break through, opposite the king of Edom, but they could not. 27 Then he took his oldest son who was to reign in his place and offered him for a burnt offering on the wall. And there came great wrath against Israel. And they withdrew from him and returned to their own land.
 3. I can see that even the Law of Moses would be more acceptable to Ruth as opposed to chemosh
- E. Ruth had the example of Naomi and Boaz, God’s people
- F. We must be like Boaz and Naomi!
- IV. Your God
- A. She also had the example of God’s treatment of His people
 - B. Balak, son of Zippor, King of Moab
 1. Numbers 22:1–3
 2. Numbers 23:7–10
 3. Numbers 23:18–24
 4. Numbers 24:3–9
 - C. The conquest of Canaan
 1. Joshua 2:8–12; 8 Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof 9 and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. 10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. 12 Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a sure sign
 - D. The destruction of Egypt through the plagues
 1. Drinking water - the Nile turned to blood

2. Health - frogs, gnats, flies, boils
 3. Crops - locusts
 4. Meat and dairy - livestock dead
 5. Infrastructure (livestock, plants, and trees) - hail and fire
- E. Ruth's reaction is completely opposite most of the others
1. They all want to go to battle against Israel (they all lost)
 2. Ruth wants to run under the wings of God for refuge
- F. Today, most people's reactions mimic the Ammorites, the Moabites, the Canaanites
1. Ruth (and Rahab) stand in stark contrast
 2. Both of these women find there way into the lineage of Christ
 3. Matthew 1:5; and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,
- G. We have a choice
- V. Ruth or Orpah
- A. We, as God's people must be like Boaz and Naomi; firmly, resolutely set in our decision to imitate the characteristics of God (through His Son, Jesus), loving the people that He has put in our path
 - B. Those who see this imitation of God's love have a choice; Ruth or Orpah
 - C. Run back to our idols like Orpah, or
 - D. Run under God's wings for refuge