

CHARACTER BUILDER

MESSAGE NOTES

Ruth: Lessons on Responsibility

Sunday, July 10 | Tommy Duke

First Baptist Church of Garden City

WHAT IS CHARACTER?

THE MENTAL AND MORAL QUALITIES DISTINCTIVE TO AN INDIVIDUAL.

RUTH

(Ruth 1:1-9)

“In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. The man’s name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go back to your mothers’ homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage.’ Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.”

**RESPONSIBILITY: THE STATE OF HAVING AN _____ TO DO
SOMETHING OR _____.**

**FROM RUTH'S EXAMPLE OF RESPONSIBILITY,
I LEARN THAT I HAVE TO...**

1) _____ OF THE OBLIGATIONS _____ IN MY LIFE.

“‘Look,’ Naomi said to her, ‘your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.’ But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!’ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.”– Ruth 1:15-18 (NLT)

*“‘Don’t call me Naomi,’ she responded. ‘Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?’”
– Ruth 1:20-21 (NLT)*

2) UNRESERVEDLY _____ TO COOPERATE WITH GOD’S PLAN.

*“...They arrived in Bethlehem in late spring, at the beginning of the barley harvest.”
– Ruth 1:22 (NLT)*

*“One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, ‘Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it.’ Naomi replied, ‘All right, my daughter, go ahead.’ So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech.”
– Ruth 2:2-3 (NLT)*

“Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.” – James 4:17 (NLT)

3) _____ TO PROVIDE THAT WHICH I CANNOT.

*“Then Boaz asked his foreman, ‘Who is that young woman over there? Who does she belong to?’”
– Ruth 2:5 (NLT)*

“Boaz went over and said to Ruth, ‘Listen, my daughter. Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don’t go to any other fields. Stay right behind the young women working in my field. See which part of the field they are harvesting, and then follow them. I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly. And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well.’ Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. ‘What have I done to deserve such kindness?’ she asked. ‘I am only a foreigner.’” – Ruth 2:8-10 (NLT)

“Around midnight Boaz suddenly woke up and turned over. He was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet! ‘Who are you?’ he asked. ‘I am your servant Ruth,’ she replied. ‘Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.’”

'The Lord bless you, my daughter!' Boaz exclaimed. 'You are showing even more family loyalty now than you did before, for you have not gone after a younger man, whether rich or poor. Now don't worry about a thing, my daughter. I will do what is necessary, for everyone in town knows you are a virtuous woman. But while it's true that I am one of your family redeemers, there is another man who is more closely related to you than I am. Stay here tonight, and in the morning I will talk to him. If he is willing to redeem you, very well. Let him marry you. But if he is not willing, then as surely as the Lord lives, I will redeem you myself! Now lie down here until morning.'" – Ruth 3:8-13 (NLT)

4) _____, **KNOWING THAT HE WILL** _____.

"Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, 'You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today.'" – Ruth 4:9-10 (NLT)

(Jesus) *"...Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!"*
– Matthew 25:21 (NLT)

Memory Verse:

"...But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me."
– 1 Samuel 2:30 (NLT)

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO:

- Memorize 1 Samuel 2:30.
- Assess the current obligations God has placed in my life.
- Keep doing my part and trusting God for that which I cannot provide.
- Sign up for Membership Class NEXT Sunday, July 17, from 12:15 – 2:45pm, in the Fellowship Hall.
- (Last Chance) Sign up for Summer Growth Group # _____.

*Join us again next Sunday, July 17, as we continue *Character Builder*. We will look at Boaz to learn about justice. Invite a friend to join you!

*Bible verses are from the New King James Versions (NKJV)
or the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.*

First Baptist Church of Garden City
www.FBCGC.net | 912-964-1448
35 Nelson Avenue, Garden City, GA 31408

