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BOAZ IN THE BOOK OF RUTH

Lessons On Loving Your Wife

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TEXT:	Ruth
KEY VERSE:	Ruth 2:1

Preface:

How to be a good husband?

There is not much scripture directly on the subject. Paul's books say, "Love your wife like Christ loved the church."¹ "Do not divorce your wife and remarry."² "Love your wife and don't be bitter against her."³ Is there an example of how to do all those things? There is, in the book named for his wife...

Ruth.

His name was Boaz. This man is probably the most underrated husband in the Bible; possibly **because** he was such a good man to his wife. He did not **need or want** the spotlight.

Story:

The story of Ruth: - Ruth 1:1 - 2:3

1. Elimelech, Naomi, and sons, Mahlon and Chilion move to Moab for economic reasons.
(How many times does **that** go badly in the Bible?!)
2. Mahlon and Chilion marry Orpah and Ruth, Moabite girls.
3. 10 years later all three men are dead. Naomi decides to return to Israel.
4. She tells the girls to stay and remarry. Orpah stays. Ruth refuses to leave Naomi.
5. They return to Bethlehem. Ruth gleans to support her mother-in-law. She "happened" into a field owned by Boaz...

Lessons On Loving Your Wife - the Example of Boaz

¹ Ephesians 5: 25 umm

² 1 Corinthians 7: 10, 11

³ Colossians 3: 19

(...or as I call it, “The most painful thing God ever taught me!”)

READ: Ruth 1:1 – 2:19

Care For Her! – Ruth 2: 8, 9

Boaz told her, “You stay right here, and let me care for you.”

- He was a diligent man, aware of what was going on,⁴ and he took care of business.⁵ He was respected and admired.⁶ He heard of Ruth and what she did. Now she shows up in **his** field, working sunup to sundown to care for Naomi.⁷
- This **amazing** woman walked into his life, and he dropped **everything** to care for her!

Protect Her! – Ruth 2:9

- Boaz immediately called a meeting. “**Hands off, boys!**”
- One of a woman's primary needs is to feel safe!

Put Her First! – Ruth 2:9

- Boaz was in the thick of barley harvest, but he immediately began to anticipate her needs, and provide them without having to be asked.
- He was **not** going to allow her to carry a heavy water pot down into that well, and a **heavier one** back up so she could drink!

** Notice how she responded!⁸*

- *She worshipped him! You cannot demand that, only earn it!*

Never Fail To See The Treasure That She Is! – Ruth 2:11,12

- He knew her value, and **sincerely** praised her for it.⁹

⁴ Ruth 2: 11

⁵ Ruth 4

⁶ Ruth 2: 4, 5, 3: 18, 4: 11

⁷ Ruth 2: 7

⁸ Ruth 2: 10

⁹ Ruth 2: 12, proverbs 31: 10

**Notice how she responded!¹⁰*

- *She bonded to him, and never let go!*

“Can I stay here? I am comfortable with you. You treat me with kindness.”

- He valued **her** first. He showed her respect.
- She returned it. “... My Lord.” She showed **him** respect.

HIS SELFLESSNESS WAS IMMEDIATELY REWARDED.

“THE NUMBER ONE NEED OF HUSBANDS IS EGO. TO BE HONORED.”¹¹

- imagine what being so desirable to **her** did for **him**.¹²

Provide For Her! Ruth 2:14

- Every time Ruth got **near** Boaz, he made sure she had what she needed. He doted on her! “till she was satisfied.”¹³

Favor Her Above All Others! – Ruth 2:15 – 19

- Even Naomi noticed. “Little sister, **someone** is taking special care of you!”¹⁴

You told your wife you would go shoe shopping with her. The guys come by and want you to play ball. Do you even have to think?

- Being with **her** doing **anything** is your favorite thing to do... Or there is something wrong.
- You can't fake this! She **must be** most important to you!

“TAKE NOTICE” OF HER, AND YOU WILL BE BLESSED.¹⁵

READ: Ruth 2:20 – 3:9

Praise Her! – Ruth 3:10,11

- He not only **saw** her value, but he also sincerely told her so!

Many daughters have done virtuously,

but thou excellest them all.

¹⁰ Ruth 2: 13

¹¹ JIMMY EVANS MARRIAGE TODAY, DALLAS TX

¹² Ruth 2: 10, 13

¹³ Ruth 2: 14

¹⁴ Ruth 2: 19

¹⁵ Ibid

- You can't fake this either! She needs to **hear** it!

Reassure Her! – Ruth 3:12-14

- He was honest about the problem, but he made a vow, “By God, I will take care of this! Don't you worry.”
- He did what he vowed to the Lord, and her.¹⁶

Guard Her Honor! Ruth 3:14

- She did nothing dishonorable, but he saw to it that no rumors spread about her.
- This was not a romantic encounter. It was a customary way for a woman to request that the man performed the duty of a kinsman redeemer.¹⁷

Make Her Priorities Yours! Ruth 3:15-17

Why did Ruth come to Bethlehem?

- Boaz understood what was important to **her**, and gladly and willingly supported her in it.
- Not half-heartedly! He gave her **six times what she had gleaned by herself!** He got involved!

Keep Your Word To Her! Ruth 3:18-4:12

- Naomi knew Boaz's character. “Honey, that man won't sleep till he keeps his word to you!”

She was right!

Live and Die to be dependable in your wife's eyes!

- Break your word to the other guy first!

“That” Too! Ruth 4:13

- “... And keeping the **only** unto her...”¹⁸
- He kept sex where it was supposed to be; after marriage, only her.

God will bless that.¹⁹

¹⁶ Isaiah 65: 16, Leviticus 19: 12

¹⁷ Deuteronomy 25: 5-10

¹⁸ Hebrews 13: 4

¹⁹ Ruth 4:13, proverbs 5: 18, 19

Result: Their Marriage Was Blessed For Eternity! Ruth 4:17-22

- Hundreds of years later, another baby was born in that city; the great grandson times 25 of Boaz and Ruth, and his name was Emmanuel. "God with us."
- This unassuming man, in his sacrifice and devotion to his wife, became patriarch of **THE** royal family.
- About a mile east of Bethlehem is a field called "Field of Boaz," where tradition says Ruth gleaned. Adjoining it is a field called "Shepherds' Field," where tradition says the angels announced the birth of Jesus.²⁰
 - In one, begin a romance that gave us the family of Jesus Christ.
 - In the other, begin a romance that began the family that Jesus Christ gave us.

After two years from the time the Lord gave me these notes, I still often copy through blurry eyes at the mistakes that I made. "The things that were written before, were written for our learning; so that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15: 4 (paraphrased)

Our forgiving merciful God will take us from where we are; the failures that we have made of it, and by his word infuse hope.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

("a future and a hope" -NKJV)

Jeremiah 29:11

Begin today letting God restore or draw you that much closer.

-God bless your marriage. -John

Epilogue:

Ephesians 5: 25 says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and **gave himself** for it."

Romans 8: 38, 39 says, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, (IE-"all of hell"), nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

So, if I love my wife as Christ loved the church, then...

"I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers (IE-"all of hell"), nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate [*my wife*] from the love of [Christ] that is in [me, her husband]." (paraphrased)

Do you see it?

²⁰ Halley's Bible handbook, page 176