

ORDINARY FAITHFULNESS

RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

Build Relationships on Shared Faith

- Both Ruth and Boaz were committed to God
 - **Ruth 1:16 NKJV ¹⁶ But Ruth said: “... And your God, will be my God.”**
 - **Ruth 2:12 NKJV ¹² The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.”**
- Shared faith is essential in relationships because shared faith:
 - **Determines direction Amos: 3:3 Can two walk together unless they are agreed?**
 - It’s possible to be “in love” and not be *in alignment*
 - *Alignment* determines *direction*, and *direction* determines *destination*
 - Agreement in spiritual direction prevents division on the journey
 - **Question:** If a car out of alignment wears down the tires, what do you think a relationship that’s *spiritually* out of alignment will do to your heart?
 - **Shapes your values and decisions - 2 Corinthians 6:14 “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers...”**
 - A yoke (what you believe) connects two people pulling together
 - What you believe influences how you define right and wrong, how you handle money, how you handle conflict, how you raise children, etc.
 - **Strengthens Unity – Ecclesiastes 4:12 “A threefold cord is not easily broken...”**
 - When both people are connected to God; they can pray, grow, and endure challenges *together*
 - **Helps guide conflict resolution – Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind...forgiving one another...”**
 - Every relationship will face disagreement, hurt feelings, and misunderstandings
 - Your faith in God gives you tools to work with like forgiveness, grace, humility, repentance, etc.
 - Without a shared faith in God, conflict becomes *pride vs pride*
- It’s not enough to love each other, you must love God *together*

Character Over Charisma

Ruth 2:11-12 “Yes, I know,” Boaz replied. “But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. 12 May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.”

Ruth 3:11 11 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.

- From these passages we can tell that Ruth and Boaz are people of godly character
- We can sometimes focus on “looks”, “professions” and “material things” and overlook or ignore *character* **1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**

ORDINARY FAITHFULNESS

RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

- Instead of looking at just the “outward appearance”, *evaluate* the person’s consistency, spiritual fruit, how they treat other people
- Jesus says in Matthew 7 a house on rock will stand and a house build on sand will fall. Godly character equals *rock*, charisma equals “sand”
- Charisma *alone* will not stand the test of time
- Choose people whose character reflects Jesus Christ, not just people who “impress you” emotionally

A Godly Man Protects and Honors

Ruth 2:8-9 NKJV 8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, “You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. 9 Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.”

- It’s easy to see that Boaz is an honorable man by how he treats Ruth
 - Boaz calls Ruth *daughter*, this was not “romantic”, it was a term of *dignity* and *respect*
 - *Protects* her from the young men in the field
 - *Provides* water for Ruth whenever she gets thirsty
- Boaz does more than he “legally required” to do
- A “Bozo-man” can be disrespectful, ignore sexual boundaries, and provides no spiritual covering or protection
- Ruth must be careful too, where she is viewed as “Reckless Ruth” because she acts or makes decisions without thinking or caring about the consequences

A Godly Woman Walks in Wisdom, Not Desperation

Ruth 3:3-5 3 Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.” 5 And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”

- In Ruth 3:3-5, Naomi gives Ruth instructions on how to *appeal* to Boaz to be her kinsman-redeemer
- Naomi is reminding Ruth that Boaz was their kinsman-redeemer
- Ruth could rightfully appeal to Boaz to safeguard the family lineage and take her in marriage
- Naomi’s giving Ruth advice is an example of seeking wise counsel, walking in wisdom, and moving prayerfully
- Ruth followed Naomi’s advice *carefully and completely Ruth 3:5 5 And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”*
- Before making serious relationship decisions, get wise counsel ***Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.***
- Wise counsel will help prevent you from making *desperate moves* like, “rushing the relationship”, ignoring red flags and lowering your standards

ORDINARY FAITHFULNESS

RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

- Don't let desperation or loneliness "make a decision" that *your future* has to live with
- Godly counsel can prevent heartbreak and poor choices

Seek Relationships with Purpose, Not Just Emotion

Ruth 3:1 "My daughter, shall I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?"

- In Ruth 3 Naomi realizes that the harvest season will soon be over and her desire for Ruth is *rest*; rest refers to stability, a settled home, and the protection of marriage
- Naomi's concern was Ruth's long-term welfare, not merely romance
- Healthy Christian relationships should be intentional and purposeful, not just emotional or impulsive
- Godly relationships should ask deeper questions:
 - Does this relationship help me walk closer with God?
 - Does it lead toward commitment and covenant, not just companionship?
 - Is this someone with whom I can build a God-honoring future?
- Naomi was helping Ruth pursue stability, provision, family, and covenant

Seek Clarity Over Confusion

Ruth 3:9⁹ And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

Ruth 3:11-12 ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. ¹² Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

- At midnight, Ruth uncovers Boaz's feet and lays at his feet and it startles Boaz
- Ruth says, I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.
- Take your maidservant under your wing, be my protective covering
- Ruth is asking Boaz to be her kinsman-redeemer, her source of protection, her husband, her source of inheritance
- Ruth was saying to Boaz, "*You have the right and responsibility to redeem me, will you fulfill it?*"
- Ruth is asking for a *definition* of their relationship
- When relationships are *not* defined, there's emotional confusion and potential emotional damage
- Boaz said, *I will do for you all that you request, I'll be your kinsmen-redeemer*, "I am willing to redeem you and take responsibility for your future."
- Ruth didn't chase Boaz, she *positioned* herself and Boaz didn't hesitate, he *stepped up* and made a commitment
- Boaz *commits* to marrying Ruth, but he explains there is a closer relative, and he must address that *first*
- Ruth knows clearly where she and Boaz stand

Maintain Moral Boundaries

ORDINARY FAITHFULNESS

RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

Ruth 3:13-14 ¹³ Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you--good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the Lord lives! Lie down until morning."

- Ruth and Boaz spend the night at the threshing floor, but the text makes clear: "She laid at his feet until morning."
- Godly relationships practice self-control and sexual integrity.
- Boaz demonstrates that honor and restraint are marks of a godly man. **1 Thessalonians 4:3–4 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality."**
- Godly relationships establish boundaries that protect *your purity, your reputation, and your testimony*
- Love that honors God *also* protects purity

Be Patient and Trust God Timing

Ruth 3:18 "Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

- Naomi tells Ruth to sit still until she knows how everything will turn out
- Naomi is telling Ruth not to *rush* what God is working out
- Godly relationships require patience and trust in God's timing
- We sometimes have difficulty sitting still because
- We fear we're missing our "opportunity"
 - Fear makes people rush what God is still working out
- Emotional attachments cloud our judgement
- Feelings can make you ignore red flags, justify bad behavior, or move too quickly
- Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful..."
- Strong feelings don't always mean the right direction
- Outside pressure
 - Culture says:
 - "Follow your heart"
 - Social media makes things worse
 - "Everyone else is getting engaged"
- The Bible says in **Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world..."**
- Naomi understood something Ruth didn't fully see yet: Boaz was a man of character
- And Naomi said, **"the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."**
- Boaz will not rest until the matter is resolved
- In other words, you don't have "to chase" what God has *already assigned*
- Whoever God has for you is for you
- Before you look for a *Ruth* or a *Boaz*, make sure you're *becoming* one
- When men walk like *Boaz* and women walk like *Ruth*, relationships will stop being "confusing", and start becoming *covenant*