

# Naomi and Ruth

**God's Non-Traditional Family**

**Ruth 1:1-18**



# God's Non-Traditional Family

- Leadership is not limited to government officials, elders, educators, and employers.
- Leaders and heroes are found among parents, grandparents, older Christians, big brothers and sisters, etc.
- They are leaders for the simple reason that someone else is following.



# God's Non-Traditional Family

- Leadership involves responsibility.
- Leadership results in both persons going in the same direction and arriving safely at the same destination.
- Since one is a follower, the other must therefore be the leader.
  - James 3:1 - *"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."*

# God's Non-Traditional Family

- Sometimes families are not structured in the traditional manner, through no fault of their own.
  - One parent families due to death or scripturally lawful divorce.
  - Orphaned children taken in by relatives, older siblings raising younger, etc.
  - No sin or stigma is attached, but it still is necessary to follow God's rules for the family.

# Naomi Felt Inadequate To Lead The Family

- Ruth 1:8 - “Go back to your mother's house.”
  - Ruth 1:11-13 - Physical inadequacy.
  - Ruth 1:19-21 - Emotional inadequacy.
- None of this removed responsibility from Naomi.
  - God knew she was up to the task.
  - We may not feel able to handle the pressure, but I know of no one who can be entirely objective about himself. Those who follow us have confidence in us.
  - Cannot reject the task; make the best of it; lead your follower to heaven; strengthen your hands for the work.

# Ruth Had Confidence In Naomi

- Her trust was based on something:  
Naomi's example of trustworthiness.
- Ruth 1:16-17
  - Not afraid to go where she led.
  - Not afraid to live as she lived.
  - Not afraid to follow her faith.



# Ruth Had Confidence In Naomi

- What if Naomi had been wrong?
  - Matt. 15:14 - “Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”
  - 1John 4:1 - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God...”
- Ruth would have paid for her carelessness if her trust had been misplaced.
- Naomi would have paid for betraying it.

# Ruth Had Confidence In Naomi


- Ruth's determination to follow Naomi was not something that could not easily be laid aside or passed on to another.
  - Ruth 1:17-18, 3:1-5 - Good fellowship.
- As a result of Naomi's leadership, Ruth the Moabitess became a part of the lineage of David and an ancestor of Jesus of Nazareth.
  - Ruth 4:16-17; Matt. 1:1-17



# Ruth's Trust Was Not Misplaced In Naomi

- Her reputation remained virtuous.
  - Ruth 2:11-12, 3:8-13
- She was correctly instructed in the customs and law.
  - Ruth 2:18-23, 3:18, 4:1-8; Deut. 25:7-9
- Naomi was praised for her leadership.
  - Ruth 4:14-17

# Why Didn't I Use A Great Man To Teach On Leading A Non-Traditional Family?

- Anyone can find himself or herself in a position of unsought leadership.
  - One does not have to be great in the view of others in order to lead.
  - “Great Ones” do not always make the best leaders.
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## Why Didn't I Use A Great Man To Teach On Leading A Non-Traditional Family?

- Job 32:7-9 - *“I said, Age should speak,  
And multitude of years should teach  
wisdom. 8 But there is a spirit in man, And  
the breath of the Almighty gives him  
understanding. 9 Great men are not  
always wise, Nor do the aged always  
understand justice.”*

# How To Prepare To Be The Leader Of A Non-Traditional Family

## ➤ Set the right example

- Matt. 5:13-16 - *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

# How To Prepare To Be The Leader Of A Non-Traditional Family

- Set your heart on serving God.
  - Joshua 24:14-15 - *“Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

# How To Prepare To Be The Leader Of A Non-Traditional Family

- Trust God that you will succeed.
  - 1Cor. 10:13 - *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it”*



# How To Prepare To Be The Leader Of A Non-Traditional Family

## ➤ Pray

- Phil. 4:6-7 - *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”*





