

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1

Singing: 50:1-3 – 321:1, 3 – 125:1-2 – 236:1-2 -- 309:1-4 –238:1-3

RUTH'S CHOICE AND CONFESSION

I. THE CAUSE II. THE CONTRAST III. THE COST IV. THE CONTENT

I. THE CAUSE OF RUTH'S CHOICE AND CONFESSION

A. Tribute to whom tribute is due: the cause is Godø (Rom. 9:16)

1. Ruth clave unto Naomi (Ruth 1:14b) is an admirable act of faith
2. This young womanø faith equals Abramø, Mosesø Daniel and his friends
3. Yet admiration is misplaced when we admire her/they: it belongs to God!

II. THE CONTRAST OF RUTH'S CHOICE AND CONFESSION

A. Ruthø choice and confession stands in contrast to Orpahø

1. There are outward similarities between Ruth and Orpah
2. Orpah wasnø a hypocrite: *she returned to what she didn't leave*
 - a. she missed the -change of heartø Jesus spoke about (John 3:5)

III. THE COST OF RUTH'S CHOICE AND CONFESSION

A. Her choice is summed up in five words but it involves a fierce fight (14b)

1. It involved severing tender affections: (8)
2. It involved a trial of reason: vs. 11-13
3. It involved sacrifice of dear friend: vs. 15

B. Following Christ involves *denying yourself: yet every loss for Him is gain!*

IV. THE CONTENT OF RUTH'S CONFESSION

A. The prefaces to her confession is intense and conscious: *Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee*

B. Ponder the five aspects of her confession

1. She renounces her freedom to choose her own path: *for whither thou goest, I will go!*

2. She resolves always to be in good company: *and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people*

3. She desires to have and cling to Naomi's God: *thy God be my God*

4. She commits to a life-long commitment: *where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried.*

5. She solemnly vows her sincerity: *the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.*

FINALLY ...

A. Don't rest in this beautiful confession: *she went on to be Boaz's wife!*

1. Be found on Jesus's field

2. Lay yourself at Jesus's feet

3. Plead Jesus to take you as His!