

BIBLE BOWL -2016

Lesson #13 –From Despair to Hope

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:15-18

Introduction:

1. The beautiful story of Ruth is filled with despair, loyalty, and redemption.
2. Even in the midst of great suffering there is hope.
3. Naomi's life reflects the journey from despair to hope

I. RUNNING ON EMPTY

A. NAOMI'S GREAT LOSS -1:1-5

1. She was in Moab away from all she knew because of the famine in the land
2. Her husband passed away while in Moab
3. Her two sons also passed away

B. NOTHING LEFT TO OFFER -1:6-14

1. She urges her daughters-in-law to return home
2. She has no other son to offer them; she is empty

C. RUTH'S VOW TO HER -1:15-18

1. She will follow her without expecting anything in return
2. NOTE: This passage is good for weddings for it displays great loyalty and commitment
3. Compare the words of Hab. 3:17-19

D. RETURNING TO HOME EMPTY -1:19-22

1. She thought the Lord had dealt bitterly with her and that His hand was against her.
2. The Lord however, had a plan in mind

II. HOPE IS BORN

A. BOAZ TAKES NOTICE OF RUTH -2:1-7

1. We see the type of man Boaz is by the relationship he has with his workers
2. He keeps the Law of Moses by allowing strangers to glean his fields –Le 19:9-10, De 24:19-22
3. He enquires about Ruth and hears great things concerning her

B. BOAZ PROTECTS RUTH -2:8-13

1. He urges her to remain in his field only.
2. Here she will find protection and be able to glean freely.
3. His men would not be a hindrance, but would provide water for her.
4. She is amazed she found favor in his sight and enquires as to why? -2:10-13
 - a. He heard about her predicament and what she has done for Naomi
 - b. He petitions a blessing from the Lord on her behalf
 - 1) She has found refuge under the wings of the Lord God –vs. 12
 - 2) Man today will only find refuge from the world under the wings of the Lord God.

C. BOAZ PROVIDES FOR RUTH -2:14-16

1. He had her eat with him and the reapers –vs. 14
2. He allowed her to reap among the sheaves –vs. 15
3. He commanded his men to let grain fall purposely on the ground for her –vs. 16

D. NAOMI SEES HOPE -2:17-23

1. She brings in about an ephah of barley (Not less than 7 ½ gallons)
2. Naomi rejoices in the Lord over Boaz –vs. 20
3. He is a close relative who can perpetuate the name of the deceased
4. Ruth is instructed to stay in his field until the end of the harvest.

Conclusion:

1. Because of Ruth's great devotion to Naomi and her dedication to God, hope was now in sight.
2. Today, when we endure affliction and remain faithful to God, there is great hope for us at the end of life's way