

## Christ, the Redeemer

The story of Ruth is perhaps the most poignant story in the Bible. It portrays beautifully the sorrows, disappointments, the bitter pills to swallow and also the victory of the human race as we all together trudge through this valley of tears, called life.

The story begins with Naomi and her family awakening and needing food. When one is awakened spiritually as I was in 1967 I was hungry for spiritual food and God provided teachers and prophets and of course, the Bible which I devoured like it was a hot fudge sundae. I had never read the Bible. It was a closed book. Now I read and read and understood little. But as I decreased, denied myself daily, the scriptures became real in my life.

Leaving the place of our birth is the beginning of our journey. Because we are in the time of a spiritual journey and not the natural as were our ancestors who came to the promised land called America or as was the walk of Jesus, we can leave our homeland and not leave our natural homeland. Do you understand this or are you dense like the disciples were? Duh!

This book should perhaps have been called “Naomi” as she was the main character, the one who suffered to bring forth life, the one who emptied herself as did our Lord, who was such a living example that Ruth wanted to follow her in spite of the fact that she appeared to be a failure. Or perhaps it was this very trait — her faith that persisted when all seemed hopeless, her grateful heart in a time of tragedy that stirred the spirit in Ruth to follow her to a strange land, to live with a strange people. Did the people of Bethlehem-Judah have a different DNA than the Moabites who were born of incest, and that made Ruth want to cling to Naomi? Who knows? I know that when I met people who knew Jesus and I was in darkness, I wanted to follow them whithersoever they went.

So we find Ruth making a historical decision when all seemed lost and hopeless, a commitment that put her name in the lineage of Christ.

**“Entreat me not to leave thee or to return from following after thee, for whither thou goest, I will go and where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me and more also if aught but death part thee from me.” Ruth 1:16**

Now, my dear sojourner, that is a commitment!!! Without that type of a commitment to God and to the little flock (family) in which God has placed you, when the wind blows and the storms and persecutions and severe dealings of God come, you will surely break any half-hearted commitment and end up going back into the womb of Moab.

Now when God is busy creating a new man inside of you, the womb (Moab), the carnal mind, will eventually be destroyed. The following scriptures in Jeremiah describe the carnal mind and tell of its destruction. “We have heard of the pride of Moab (he is exceedingly proud), his loftiness and his arrogancy, and his pride and the haughtiness of his heart.”

Let us substitute America for Moab. “We have seen the arrogance and deceit of the carnal mind running this country and leading us down a path to hell, unless God intervenes and destroys the carnal mind we as a nation will be destroyed. “Moab (America) shall be ashamed for how say ye, ‘We are mighty and strong men of war’.” Jeremiah 48:14 — “Because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures thou shall go forth into captivity.” On and on the scripture warns us to flee to the stronghold of God for calamity shall surely strike.

This lesson will be on redemption: For Christ, the Redeemer is here to make it possible to be reconciled back

to God by the blood of Christ where we are protected from the evils of the world. Now let me make it very plain to you. You cannot have Christ's blood and your family blood at the same time. So if you desire to be cleansed of the curse you must shed your blood. In other words you must die so He can live. Our Savior made it very clear that we must give up our family as He did His. "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live. Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life that I now I live I live by the faith of the Son of God." We must (be crucified) die so He can live inside of us.

Did you really read that — "I am crucified with Christ"? Do you know how painful that is? Do you know the suffering of Christ that will redeem you from the curse of your old life??? Trust me when I tell you the movie "The Passion" is just one more ear-tickling ploy on God's patience. Are you waiting for the rapture that will never come or perhaps you are hoping when you die you will go to heaven. My dear friends, without a commitment so complete that you die daily, that you decrease to the shedding of your blood, you will never know what heaven is. If you seek first the Kingdom of God, you will shed your blood and get rid of the curse of your old family lineage and all else will be added unto you — heaven will be added to you.

Now for the next scripture — **"When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her:"**

God will set all kinds of temptations and seducing spirits before you to see if you are sincere about following Him. Or if we put our hand to the plow and then look back and long so for the old life, you will ultimately do as Orpah did. She kissed her mother-in-law good-bye and went back to her old life. Orpah means one who thinks more of the things of self than the things of the spirit. Moab is the womb of the carnal mind. So we see that one was taken out of the old and the other was left. Ruth longed for the kingdom of God so nothing could stop her from ultimately being redeemed and being united with God thus finding her new birth and freedom in Christ where all things are made new. The name Ruth means compassion. So we see Ruth leaving the carnal mind to grow up into the fruit of the Spirit. Our carnal mind is Ruthless. I did not say the mind of Saddam Hussein is ruthless. I said, "your/my" carnal mind is ruthless, absent of compassion.

We all begin our walk with God in Moab for our natural man is a seed which will be destroyed either unto eternal life or destroyed unto death. Note Jeremiah 48:10 — "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully. The calamity of Moab is near to come and his affliction hasteth fast." America, the so-called Christian nation, has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Our depravity as a nation is a disgrace to the whole world. We are sick from the top of our head to the tip of our toes.

"Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evil doers, children who are corrupters!!!! They have forsaken the Lord. They have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel. They have turned away backward. The whole head is sick and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness in it" — another scripture out of Isaiah describing our dilemma. Jeremiah 48:2 describes the cries of other nations, especially Iraq. Watch the movie "Fahrenheit 9/11". "There shall be no more praise of Moab. They have devised evil against it; come and let us cut it off from being a nation." Does that describe our dilemma today????

Now let us look at the journey our soul takes as we hear and obey the words of our Savior. "Leave your nets and follow Me." The "follow Me" infers that He is going to take us on a journey. Later we will see that it is a journey out of this evil world called hell.

Notice that the book of Ruth starts with, "There was a famine in the land". When I met Christ, it was like a little baby awakening and hungry and the church had nothing to eat. It is the lack of food that keeps the soul as a nomad following Christ into the unknown. As we eat His flesh and drink His blood and eat the food given to us by reading the Bible and receiving the teachers God sends our way, we continue to deny ourselves, decrease so He increases.

Naomi and her family all began the race. They left their homeland and started on their dreadful journey through the wilderness. The stripping was real. Naomi had lost her husband, her two sons and all she had left was a new family of Moabites. God had stripped her until the bitterness of the serpent was exposed. Her mouth, which formerly had the sting of the serpent and the bitterness that was in her tongue, was changed to sweetness.

Old, without hope, promises unfulfilled, weary, she now hears that Bethlehem had food for her weary, stripped soul. Surely no person would want to follow such a failure on a journey into a strange land. However, after all the stripping God had a plan to add to Naomi something lacking in her life, her soul. Gentle, compassionate, innocent Ruth was added to her and fulfilled a part of her life that more than compensated for her loss.

So back to Bethlehem they go. And now we see the Redeemer ready to bring forth the baby Jesus inside of Naomi's heart. Bethlehem, the house of the bread of life, had in her walls the Tree of Life, the well that never runs dry. Perhaps her husband and sons were idols that had to be taken from her. Beware of any idol you hold in your heart. It will surely prevent you from being that

land flowing with milk and honey. God will either take your idols in death or He will cause them to hate you.

Now with Naomi's restoration she could counsel Ruth as she took step after step into the resurrection, the redeeming of her soul. For she had met the Counselor, the Wonderful Father and out her belly flowed rivers of living water. And so we find the journey of these brave women led to the overcoming life thus adding compassion into the lineage of the true seed of Abraham which is Christ. Compassion, the issue that flowed out of Jesus to heal the woman with the issue of blood was His inheritance brought forth by the soul's journey as it dies out to all and has compassion as one of the things added to us if we seek first the Kingdom of God.

Blessed are we for our Redeemer liveth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie". The script is cursive and elegant.

Marie Kolasinski