

The Greatest Ingredient in Building Bridges –



Ruth 1:15-17

“Life is Honored when Love is the Bridge”

Ruth 1:15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

16 And Ruth said, Intreat 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:**

17 **Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried:** the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.



Our theme this year is *Building Bridges*, and this morning we will continue looking at the topic that we will cover for a few more weeks:

The Greatest Ingredient in Building Bridges – LOVE

The main ingredient in building a relationship with Christ = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a marital relationship = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a parent/child relationship = LOVE.

The main ingredient in building a loyal friendship = LOVE.



For us to be “building bridges” with anyone, our foundation must be built upon LOVE.

God’s love for us motivated Him to send His Son to build a bridge for us into eternity. The sending was a manifestation of His commitment of love:

1 Jn. 4:9 **In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**



Last week we turned our attention one of the key factors in building bridges via love: COMMITMENT.

- LIFE AND LOVE MEET UNEXPECTEDLY

- Life is Faith to Strengthen
- Love at First Sight

- LIFE AND LOVE MINGLE UNIQUELY

- Every Relationship is Unique to the Individuals
- Every Relationship is Unique to the Incidents

- LIFE AND LOVE MERGE UBIQUITOUSLY

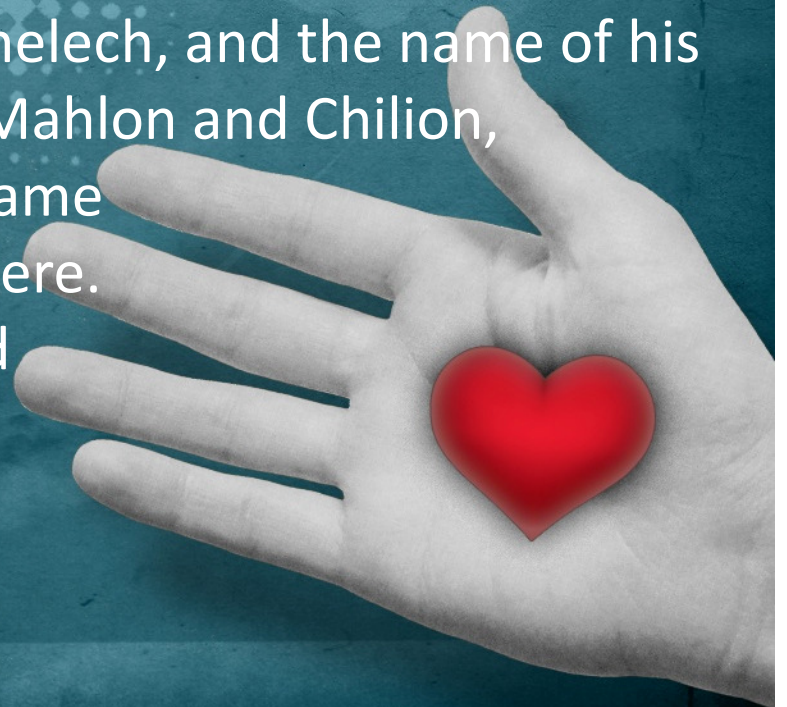
- The Commitment Included Time
- The Commitment Included Trials
- The Commitment Included Triumphs
- The Commitment Included a Tomb



- Elimelech left Bethlehem, and took his wife Naomi, and two sons – Mahlon and Chilion, to Moab.
- They left the “House of Bread” to find better “bread.”
- While in Moab, Mahlon marries Ruth and Chilion marries Orpah. In time, all three men die, childless, and with no heirs for the immediate families

Ruth 1:2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.



- Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem. She implores the two Moabites to return to their people.

Ruth 1:6 Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

8 And **Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house:** the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.



- This is where we pick up the narrative:

Ruth 1:15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

16 And Ruth said, Intreat 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:**

17 **Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried:** the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.



The book of Ruth is a small book, but packed full with many subjects: it is historical, prophetic, enlightening of cultural customs, a unique love story, and for us, a great example of building bridges via love.

Ruth 1:16 And Ruth said,

- **Intreat 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 ought but death part thee and me.



I. COMMIT RESPONSIBLY

Ruth 1:16 And Ruth said, Intreat 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:**

17 **Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried:** the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

A. Follow the same Direction – “...for **whither thou goest, I will go...**”

- Relationships have something in common.



B. Fixate on the same Destination – “...**and where thou lodgest, I will lodge...**”

- Relationships travel from general to specific ideals.

C. Fraternize with Descendants – “...**thy people shall be my people ...**”

- Relationships bring and multiply relationships.

D. Faithfulness and Dedication – “...**and thy God my God:**”

- True spiritual relationships agree on doctrine!

E. Finishing until Death – “...**Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried...**”

- Relationships with depth last until death.



II. CULTIVATE RESPECT

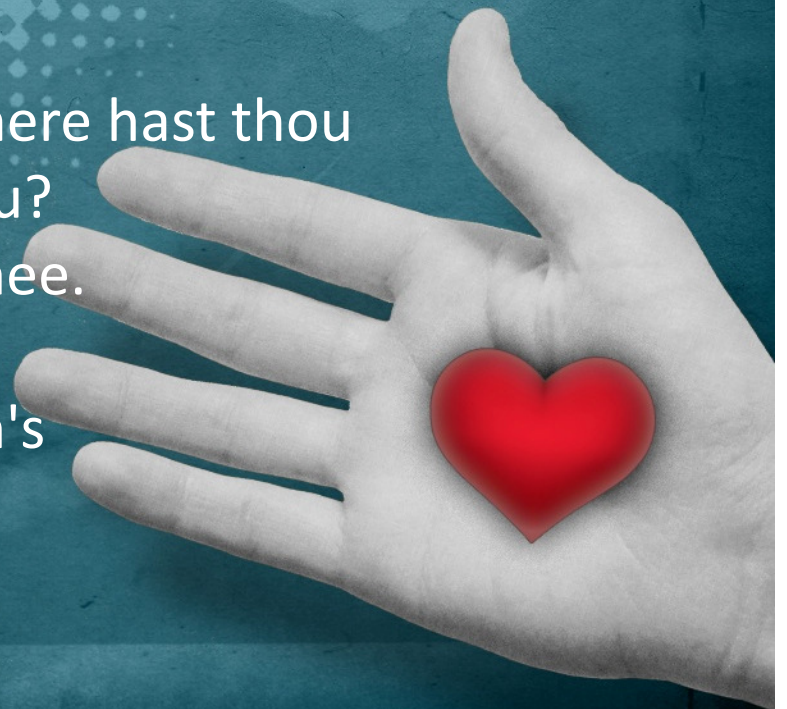
Ruth 2:2 And **Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field**, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And **she said unto her, Go, my daughter.**

17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.

18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and **she brought forth, and gave to her** that she had reserved after she was sufficed.

19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee.

And **she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought**, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz.



20 And **Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD**, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.

21 And **Ruth the Moabite said**, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.

22 And **Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law**, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.

23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

A. Cultivate Respect by Showing Respect

- Charity
- Communication
- Compliments
- Caring



B. Cultivate Respect by Earning Respect

Ruth 2:7 And she said, **I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers** among the sheaves: **so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now**, that she tarried a little in the house.

10 Then **she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground**, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, **It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband**: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

12 **The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel**, under whose wings thou art come to trust.



13 Then she said, **Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.**

17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.

Ruth 2:23 So **she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest;** and dwelt with her mother in law.



Successful Character Traits

responsible

caring

honest

helpful

enthusiastic

creative

confident

hopeful

musical

humorous

kind

brave

sincere

trustworthy

funny

open-minded

respectful

fair

just

cooperative

compassionate

loveable

giving

sharing

committed

loyal

strong

independent

careful

cautious

energetic

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- Character
- Work Ethic
- Integrity
- Trustworthiness
- Being Responsible

III. COMMUNICATE RECIPROCALLY

A. Talk while Listening

Ruth 3:1 Then **Naomi her mother in law said unto her**, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?

5 And **she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.**



B. Talk expecting Loyalty

Ruth 3:16 And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her.

17 And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

IV. CELEBRATE THE REDEMPTION

A. The Plan was Finished



Ruth 4:9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

B. The Prophecy honored Faith

Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for **thy daughter in law, which loveth thee**, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.

16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

17 And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, **the father of David.**

Mt. 1:5 And Salmon begat **Booz** of Rachab; **and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;**



Conclusion

Ruth put feet with her faith, followed Naomi to Bethlehem, took care of her, worked hard in the fields, then met faithful Boaz. The older gentleman showed grace, kindness and love in redeeming her to himself. He is a type of Christ!

Ruth 2:10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, **Why have I found grace in thine eyes**, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

Rom. 5:8 But **God commendeth his love toward us**, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

1 Pet. 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things**, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
19 **But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**



Col. 1:14 In whom **we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

Building a bridge

- Commitment to a common goal
- Cultivate respect of another's desires
- Communicate during and for achieving greater results
- Celebrate God's blessings upon the relationship

