



SCC Message by John Aldax, December 21, 2014

Part 3

Ruth

The Story of Ruth

¹⁰ After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.

¹¹ The Israelites did evil in the LORD'S sight and served the images of Baal.

¹² They abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshipping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the LORD. ¹³ They abandoned the LORD to serve Baal and the images of Ashtoreth. ¹⁴ This made the LORD burn with anger against Israel, so he handed them over to raiders who stole their possessions. Judges 2:10 – 14 (NLT)

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21:25

Hesed

Rest

Emptiness & Bitterness

Gleaning

⁹ “When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. ¹⁰ It is the same with your grape crop—do not strip every last bunch of grapes from the vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:9 & 10 (NLT)

Kinsman-redeemer – goel

Uncover his feet

Ezekiel 16:8 – Then I passed by you and watched you, noticing that you had reached the age for love. I *spread my cloak over you and covered your nakedness*. I swore a solemn oath to you and entered into a marriage covenant with you, declares the sovereign LORD, and you became mine. (NET Bible)

The Lessons of Ruth

1. Ruth is a _____

2. God is the _____
Aloneness – Hopelessness – Aging – Emptiness – Everything

3. GOD IS _____ and _____

Naomi makes the mistake that many loyal but hurting believers have committed: interpreting and trying to figure out God in light of our circumstances rather than interpreting and trying to figure out our circumstances in light of God and his character. (Handbook on the Historical Books, p. 192 – 193)

4. Ruth challenges me to _____

Ruth is a picture of *hesed*; of going beyond the call of duty.

Philippians 2:3 – 5 – ³ Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. ⁴ Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well. ⁵ You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had . . . (NET Bible)

5. Ruth's story reminds me that life is filled with _____
and _____