

# Lord of Life Ministries

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## "Naomi and Ruth"

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We want to get into the Book of Ruth, because the Book of Ruth has so much in it that pertains to you and I today. This book is about two individuals that learned obedience through the things that they suffered. And all these things brought them to a place of being consistent in their walk with the Father.

Naomi, her husband and two sons were of the house Bethlehem-Judah, which means "the House of Praise". In other words, they were in a place in God where they were fellowshiping with the Father all the time. They lived in a place (in their minds) of praise and worship, and thanksgiving to the Father.

God had set judges over the people at that particular time. A judge is an individual who ministers a Word that comes out of the Spirit. This Word is to judge, or bring correction and change to the different areas of our lives that are not like Christ. It is to bring us into the nature of Christ. And through these judges back then - a famine came over the land.

Well this Word will also cause a famine in YOUR LAND. In other words, it will cause your soul to die out to self. Jesus said that He came to do the will of His

Father. And when He truly becomes Lord over your life - a change takes place in your mind, to where His desires become your desires. This change brings you into that abundant life in Christ. It brings you out of the carnal mind and into the mind of Christ. It allows you to experience the Kingdom of God in your life - which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

God is raising up a ministry in the earth that will deal with the Adam nature and the appetites of the flesh.

In Mark 8:34-37, Jesus said, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. What does it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Paul had learned to do this, and from experience he wrote in Philippians 3:8-11, "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him,

not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

Paul gave up everything - his money and possessions, his religious beliefs, the recognition of man, the lusts of the flesh (carnal mind) - and he counted all these things as "dung" - in order that he might know Christ and be found in Him. Paul left everything behind so that he could know and experience Christ's power and resurrection life. He wanted to be "made conformable unto His death." In other words, Paul wanted to totally die out to the carnal mind (self), and be raised up in the mind of Christ!

But Paul also wrote in this same chapter, that there are other Christians that had become enemies of the "cross". In verses 18 and 19 it says, "(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

*Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*" In other words, these Christians have gone back into the world and the carnal mind. They are not willing to take up their cross (lay down their lives and yield to the mind of Christ) - because their God is their belly (their carnal mind/self/the appetites of their flesh). They do not want to be led by the Spirit - they want to do their own thing.

I have watched many people over the years. I have seen God draw close to them, and I have watched people draw close to God. But over time, God begins to deal with the different areas of their lives. Some yield to the dealings of the Father and grow in God. Some will only go so far, because there are areas in their life that they won't give up. And there are some that go right back into the world and want nothing to do with God. These individuals don't want to change. They choose to live in the carnal mind according to the appetites and lusts of the flesh. They want the things of this world more than they want God - and they become an enemy of the cross of Christ.

Sometimes we shut God out of areas in our life, and say, "leave that alone God. I still want that in my life."

To pick up your "cross" daily and deny "self" is the beginning of this process. When you yield your will to the Father, and He begins to "CROSS" out your life - you enter into His resurrection life.

When God raised up His judges - Naomi and her husband

left the house of God, because they didn't want to change. It says that they went into the Moab country. "Moab" means, wanderer. It signifies a soul that wanders off (the narrow path), and they go into the wilderness (in their mind), because of their disobedience to the Word and the Spirit of God.

Naomi's name means: my sweetness, my delight, my beloved, and my beauty. Naomi represents the soul. Your soul is your mind. God delights in your soul and He calls it "beautiful", because through your soul (mind), you have fellowship one with the other. The Spirit of God has a relationship and a union with your mind. He impregnates your mind (soul) with His seed (which is His Word) to produce His life (nature) in the earth (you). His incorruptible seed (or Word) is planted in your mind to change your thinking, and your attitudes - so that you can experience the Kingdom of God all the time.

Well what is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. It is His pleasure to give you these things, and it is His desire that you walk in the mind of Christ.

However, because we walked in the course of this world before we came back to God - the soul (mind) has certain things in it (from the world) that prevent you from experiencing His Kingdom all the time. There are still things in you that the Father needs to consume.

Even though Naomi was experiencing God, there were still things in her that were from the world. Naomi and her husband

were in the house of God, but when the Lord started judging, or dealing with what was still in their soul - they left the house of God and began to wander in the Moabite country. In other words, they went back into the carnal mind and the world - they went into a wilderness in their mind. But as long as they stayed in the wilderness, they could not experience God's righteousness, peace, and joy.

It isn't easy to give your whole life to God, but weigh the costs. He said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." When you give your whole life to God, you discover that there is nothing back there of any value. Paul counted it all as dung. All the world has to offer is death and destruction. But what we have before us, and in us - is God Himself!

God has so much love for you, and He longs to have a relationship with you. He desires for us to purpose in our hearts, that we will be completely sold out to Him, no matter what comes our way. He desires to give you your inheritance in Christ - and your inheritance is Himself! Your inheritance is to inherit all the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, and to walk in His nature. It is to be able to see people and all creation through His eyes, and understand them like you have never done before. He desires to give you His love, so that you can walk in the realm of love continually - forgiving others for their ignorance of God's ways.

Naomi and her husband paid a great price because of their disobedience. Their disobedience brought sufferings to their whole family. Disobedience brings sufferings! In Deuteronomy 11:26-28 says, "*Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse* (Life in the mind of Christ, or death in the carnal mind); *A blessing, if ye obey* (yield your will to the Father) *the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse* (death and destruction in the carnal mind), *if ye will not obey* (yield your will to the Father and allow Him to consume those things in you that are not like Him) *the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way* (walk out of the mind of Christ) *which I command you this day, to go after other gods* (carnal thoughts and the appetites of the flesh), *which ye have not known.*"

There are still some areas of our lives that do not line up with the Word of God - and sometimes the only way that God can get your attention and point them out to you, is to bring certain situations your way. Often, God must break us, and humble us, before we are ready to hear what He has to say to us.

God knew this about Naomi and her husband, so He just let them go into the wilderness. They became wanderers just like the Israelites. Israel wandered in the wilderness, and they died there, because they would not let God deal with their lives, and consume those things which they had brought with them (in their minds), from Egypt (the world).

God did not control Naomi and her husband - they made their own choices. They chose to leave the house of Bread (God) and to wander in the wilderness. And in the wilderness, first Naomi's husband, then both her sons died. Once you start disobeying God, and refuse to let Him deal with the attitudes that are in your mind - you begin to Spiritually die.

It is important that we keep our relationship with the Lord. We can't let anything get in the way of our love for Him. If anything does come between you and the Lord, then you need to get it right - and keep it right. Don't be hard on yourself, and condemn yourself - just let God deal with that area of your life, and continue in your walk with Him.

The Father is always right. But many Christians blame God for the way their life is. Everything that God allows to come your way is out of His love for you. In Psalms 66:12 it says, "*Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but though broughtest us out into a wealthy place.*" Everything He allows to come your way, is to cause you to go deeper in Him!

We have to maintain an attitude of praise and thanksgiving - no matter what is going on in our life. If we have gotten off track, then we need to let God deal with what ever it is that drew us away. Do not harden your heart to Him. There are times when the dealings of the Lord seem severe, and you just don't feel like praising Him - but God is always right, and inside you know that. He says

that we need to praise Him no matter what. The Father wants you to praise Him, because praising Him will get your mind off of your problems and situations, and back on Him. Praising Him will cause us to arise and get back in the mind of Christ. We need to see ALL of our situations as beautiful - because He is in every situation.

Nothing but good can come from allowing God to deal with those things that are still in you. He wants to consume everything in you that is not like Himself. He wants to set you free in your mind, so that you can walk in His presence, and experience the Kingdom of God in your life twenty-four hours a day.

There are two principles in Christ that will carry you through your entire walk in God. These principles are "obedience" and "praise". If you learn how to apply these to your walk, you will be able to stay on the narrow path. When we disobey the Father, we are headed for suffering and correction.

In Jeremiah 2:19 it says, "*Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee...*" Naomi's own sins broke her, and she returned back to her first love with the Father. It says in Ruth 1:6-7, "*Then she AROSE with her daughters in law, that she might RETURN FROM MOAB (the wilderness): for SHE HAD HEARD (what the Spirit of the Lord was saying to her) *in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited His people in giving them BREAD. Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her daughters in law with her; and they went**

on the way to return unto the land of Judah (PRAISE).“

Many people who go into the world and disobey God get into all kinds of things. Then one day they think to themselves, “If I go back to church everything will be alright and start changing for the better.” But the change has to take place inside of you, in your mind and in your thinking – not on the outside.

God is within you! The Kingdom of God is within you! The house of the Lord is within you - it is not some building outside of you. The change has to take place in your heart (mind). “Repent” means to change your mind, and to do things God’s way. Repentance took place inside Naomi.

Naomi had two daughters in law, and when Naomi returned from the land of Moab (the wilderness) and returned to God, one daughter in law went back to her people and their Gods – and the other would not leave Naomi. The first was not willing to pay the price and serve God with her whole heart. She could not make a total commitment to Him, so she went back to her people and their gods. She went back to her generations, and back into religion and tradition.

Sometimes, even after we get to know the Lord and experience Him for a while, we go back to our traditions, doctrines, and religion. Then God asks us, “Why are you doing this? I am trying to pull you out of the church system, the systems of this world, and religion.”

I knew this one sister, and a prophet had come to church and told her that God has called her to walk in the Spirit. But she went

back into the church system and religion.

Then God sent this prophet to speak to her a second time, and God said, “Why do you continue to disobey me?” And the prophet said, “Sister, God has shown me that you are called to a deeper place in Him. There is another body that is small in numbers, but this body has a deeper understanding of the Kingdom of God. This is where God would have you to be. You don’t belong in this place of tradition and religion.”

The sister said that she knew it was God speaking to her, because the Spirit of the Lord came all over her at that time. But she still chose not to obey the Lord. Instead, she put her whole heart into the traditions and religion of her church. The people of her church made her a bishop in their church. She gained a title in the church system, but gave up the position that she was called to in Christ. She gave up the deeper walk with the Father.

Every member of the body of Christ should be placed in the body as the Father sees fit. In 1Corinthians 12:18 it says, ***“But now hath God set the members EVERY ONE OF THEM in the body, AS IT HATH PLEASD HIM.”*** You are supposed to let the Lord set you in the body – where He pleases. If we do not obey the Lord, and allow Him to deal with these areas in our life, then we will miss out on what God has for us.

Revelations 12:5 says, ***“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.”*** God wants to birth the

man-child (Christ/Son of man/the nature of God) in each and every one of us. We need to fall in love with the Bread of Life and with the Spirit of Truth. God wants us to fall so in love with Him and being in His presence – that we will never look outside of Him for anything. All that you could ever want is in the Father.

Naomi spoke to Ruth her other daughter in law and said, ***“Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.”*** But Ruth refused to leave Naomi’s side. She said, ***“Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following 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.”*** Ruth wanted to be close to Naomi, because she knew that Naomi was heading in the right direction.

In Philippians 3:17 Paul said, ***“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”*** Paul was saying, “Follow me. Follow my example.” Well how could he say that? Paul could tell others to follow him, because he was walking in the Spirit. He was walking in the mind of Christ. Some followed Paul, and some didn’t. Some followed Paul for a while, then turned against him and began to persecute him – they became enemies of the cross of Christ.

Ruth said to Naomi, ***“Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.”*** She left the world and chose to deny self, pick up her cross and

follow Christ. So when Naomi "saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her."

When you make up your mind to follow God with your whole heart, He ceases to speak with you, and to deal with you. In other words, when your heart turns to Him He doesn't have to put you in the fire as often. When we leave the world behind and cleave to God, walking in obedience and praise - our love affair with Him just keeps getting deeper, and deeper!

Paul counted all things as dung - **that he might know Him.** God will favor you when you come to the place in your life where you decide to follow Him no matter what. Wherever He goes, you will go. Wherever the Spirit leads, you will go. And when you cry out, Father I know that there are still things in me that are not like you, consume them and teach me your ways - He will draw you close to His bosom, and deal with you as a Son. When you fall in love with Him and come to know who He is, then you will come to know who you really are. Jesus was the first born among many brethren.

Ruth began to look upon the needs of others and she lost sight of herself. She began to see the harvest that needed to be cared for, and she willingly went out and labored in the field. Boaz, represents the Christ, and he looked upon her with favor because she lost sight of her own needs, saw the needs of others, and labored to bring the harvest in. In Matthew 6:31 and 33 it says, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? What shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal

*shall we be clothed?...But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

In Ruth 3:1 it says, "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?" In other words, Naomi was saying that she needed to find rest for Ruth's soul. Then she told Ruth, "And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor."

You and I have to go to the threshingfloor. What is the threshingfloor, and what is it for? It is the fire and the wind that consumes all the impurities that are in our soul. It consumes those things that keep us from staying in God's rest. Matthew 3:12 says, "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The threshingfloor is to burn up everything in you that is not like Christ, so that you might bring forth much fruit. Christians cry out to God and say, "God change me!" Then when God takes them to the threshingfloor and turns up the heat, they complain and get angry with God. Many even walk away. But you have to understand, that the fire is meant to set you free from the things that keep you bound in your mind, and the fire is to bring you into the nature of God.

If you remember Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Book of Daniel, where they were bound and cast into the King's furnace. The furnace was turned up seven times hotter (seven means perfection) than normal.

And the king looked into the furnace and said, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." The king and the men who cast them into the furnace meant this for evil, but God used the fire to perfect them.

The only things that were consumed, were the things that had kept them bound (in their mind) - they didn't even smell like smoke. They walked with the Son of God (in the mind of Christ) in the midst of the fire. And when the Father had consumed everything in them that was not like Himself - one new man appeared - who was in the form of the Son of God!

In Revelations 3:18, Jesus said, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed..." Gold that has been tried by fire, has had all the impurities that were within it - brought to the surface and removed. This is what God does with us. He puts us in the fire and brings everything within us that is not like Christ to the surface, so that He can remove them and consume them.

Gold represents the nature of God. When God is done with us, all that will be left is His righteousness. The white raiment also speaks of His righteousness. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:24 that we are to, "...put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Naomi told Ruth, "Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put on thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the

floor... And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do." Naomi was telling Ruth that she needed to allow Christ to cleanse what was in her mind. She needed to learn how to walk in his power and authority. She needed to put on the new man and walk in righteousness. She needed to mark (pay close attention to) the place where he shall lie (she needed to follow His example or pattern). And she needed to lay down with the Christ - enter into His rest.

In other words, **Ruth needed to come to the end of herself, and cease from her own labors.** Naomi represents the wisdom of God, and she encouraged Ruth to lie down with the Christ, so that she could find rest for her soul (mind).

You will not find rest until your soul lies down with the Christ in you. You have to be willing to submit to Christ and His Word. How you lie down with Christ is - your mind (soul) must come to the place where it agrees with God no matter what the situation is. When you learn to do this, you will remain in His rest, His peace, and His joy.

I know that there are times when you experience hardships in your life. I know that you go through situations and circumstances that are very difficult. But I also know that when your soul learns to submit to Christ, you can rise above your situations - no matter what they are, or how bad they seem.

Some people want God to change things. But nothing is

going to change until you change within. When you learn to praise God in everything - no matter what you are going through, you will be able to overcome and rise above your situations. You can experience His joy and His peace, even if it seems like all hell is breaking loose around you.

Naomi told Ruth that she needed to lie down at the feet of Boaz. The feet represent the walk. When you start bowing down to Christ, you will also experience the walk of Christ. The world will hate you. Jesus said in John 15:18-19, *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."*

Remember Martha and Mary - Mary also sat at the feet of Jesus, and she heard His word. But Martha was very busy about many things, working hard for God. But the Lord does not want you to work for Him - He wants to work through you. Jesus said to her, *"Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*

Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, and learned of His ways - which brought her into a deeper union with God. Martha was corrected, and it brought a change within her. God's judgements and corrections are to bring a change in your mind.

In Ruth 3:7, Boaz laid down at the end of a heap of corn, and Ruth came softly, uncovered his feet, and laid down. The heap of

corn (or grain) represents the Word. When your soul lies down with the Christ, God will start feeding you a Word that comes out of the Spirit. This Word will bless you greatly, and it will bring a change in your mind. Here, the Spirit of God will reveal the mysteries of the Kingdom of God to you.

A short while after Ruth laid at the feet of Boaz - a marriage took place. And when you lie down with the Christ, and your soul (which is your mind) learns to submit to the Father - a union or marriage takes place between your soul and the Spirit of God. As a result of Ruth marrying Boaz, she became pregnant, and later birthed a son.

Out of your union and marriage with the Father, you will birth a Son. Christ wants to be birthed out of you. God wants to be seen and expressed out of you. God created man so that He could have a union with him and produce many Sons in the image and likeness of His first Son - Jesus Christ! And out of your union with Him, the Christ in you - is being birthed!

This is what it is all about. In Romans 8:19-23 it says, *"For the earnest expectation of the creature (creation) waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the*

*Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, for the redemption of our body."*

In other words, all creation/the whole world, is waiting for the manifestation of the Sons of God to take place. They are waiting for God's Son to be birthed out of you and I, so that they can be set free and experience the Kingdom of God for themselves. They are groaning and waiting for the Sons to grow up, and come forth in the nature of the Father to release them.

God's Sons are in the process of going through labor pains, waiting and groaning for the Father to consume the last bit of flesh that remains in us, and between us - so that the Christ can be birth from within. We are also waiting for the redemption of our bodies.

In Genesis chapter 1, God said, *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."* This was God's plan from the beginning, and He hasn't changed His plan!

When we walk in the Spirit (mind of Christ), we walk in His image and likeness - we express the nature of God. But there are times when we slip back into the carnal mind. There are still some dark areas in our soul that the Father has to consume. As we yield our will to the Father, and allow Him to deal with these dark areas that still offend the Kingdom of God - we will go out of the Spirit less, and we will experience more of His peace in our minds. When the Lord has swallowed up your soul totally - there will be no more you

(self/carnal mind) - there will only be the Father Himself.

This is the day of the Lord, and we are to be one with the Father, and with each other. The Father is getting ready to express the fullness of who He is to His creation, and He is going to do this through His Sons.

Some of God's Sons are ruling and reigning with Him now, and God is working through them to release His creation - for His glory. Through the grace of God - they have taken their rightful place in the Father. Out of the oneness that they have with Christ - the Father is doing His greater works through them now.

In Revelations 3:21 Jesus said, *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne."* And in Revelations 2:26-27 He said, *And He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And He shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."* We are in this time now, and the Lord is ruling the nations through His Sons that have entered into this realm.

How does this take place? How does this operate? It says in Zechariah 4:6, *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."* Those that are yielded to Him, are allowing God to work through them, and He is sending forth His thoughts (creative Word) throughout the earth as He chooses. His Word is being sent abroad like arrows BY HIS SPIRIT, to accomplish His

purpose. He is shaking both the heavens and the earth. **THIS IS HAPPENING NOW!**

He is a Sovereign God! Thy God reigns! Power and Glory and Honor to His Name Forever!