

## THE CALLED OUT ONE

**TEXT:** *Ruth 1:16-17:*

*<sup>16</sup> 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:*

*<sup>17</sup> 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.*

Do you know that national pride would forbid her to die in a strange land? That's the way it is with the Chinese to this day. From the Apostles, most of them were martyrs whose blood sealed their testimony of unwavering faith in their Shepherd.

**INTRODUCTION:** A Jewish family is threatened by famine in their land, and decides to leave and go into the land of Moab.



Moab was not far away and there were rumors that the grass was green over there.

Elimelech and Naomi chose to risk taking their boys to this morally-polluted land. All children are alike and know no barriers of racism or religious distinctions. They will play as gladly with a scrub woman's children as with one raised in the home of a socialite. So these Jewish boys were playing with the heathen Gentile children.

Little did the parents realize the day would come when these Jewish boys would fall in love with these Moabite girls and want to marry them. This was a calamity to these strict Jews and was contrary to The Law of Moses. But break that Law they did in spite of the parents entreaties not to. You might as well get in front of Niagara Falls and say "BOO", and expect it to stop or to flow backwards, as to try and stop the average young person in love.

To the parents' credit, they did not act as many have reacted to an unwelcome marriage. They never threatened to refuse to speak ever again to their children, nor did they forbid them from ever coming back to the parents' home. Naomi and Elimelech showed better judgment than that. They took the new wives into their fellowship and treated them very kindly. They had enough of the Love of God in their hearts to show real hospitality.

Little did Naomi think the day would come when her beloved husband would pass away and then both of her sons. So she is not only a widow now but also childless. In her grief, she is deciding to return to her own land, for there are no bonds to hold her there in the land of Moab. Her two daughters-in-law accompany her to the border before saying good-bye. Little would we expect this to happen. Orpah gave a parting kiss, but Ruth clings in tender love to her mother-in-law. She makes one of the most beautiful heart-touching pleas to remain with her as ever I have heard.

Listen to her immortal words:

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When there is a famine in the land, or in the church, or in the human heart (soul famine), then there is a lack of faith and trust and dependence upon the Lord. Then the people will lean on the arm of flesh, or try to meet their own needs in their own way. Instead of going the **2 Chronicles 7:13-14** route to victory, Elimelech chose to go down to Moab for help.

***2 Chronicles 7:13-14:***

***<sup>13</sup> If I shut up Heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people;***

***<sup>14</sup> If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.***

He paid dear by going down there, not only dying himself but both of his sons met the same fate. Thus, adversities will either bring us closer to God or closer to the world.

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Naomi had heard that GOD HAD VISITED HIS PEOPLE in revival and restoration of the land to fruitfulness, so she decided to return home. When we are obeying God, we must *come ye out from among them*.

***2 Corinthians 6:17: Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.***

***Revelation 18:3-5:***

***<sup>3</sup> For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.***

***<sup>4</sup> And I heard another voice from Heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.***

***<sup>5</sup> For her sins have reached unto Heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.***

Like the Prodigal son, she went away full, and now returns empty and ashamed. There are many Christians who have not left the world behind to go with God.

***John 15:19: 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.***

***Jeremiah 2:13: For My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me the Fountain of Living Waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.***



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When a Christian backslides back to the world, how can they escape being robbed of Joy, Peace, and Virtue? We are coming very near to the coming again of Christ, and we need to be CONSECRATED wholly unto the Lord and not conformed to the world.

***Romans 12:2: And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, Will of God.***

God called for SEPARATION, and HE meant it. Ruth responded to this call but Orphah didn't, only partially. God calls for PUTTING OFF THE OLD MAN which is corrupt according to the deceitful lust.

***Ephesians 4:22-24:***

***<sup>22</sup> That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;***

***<sup>23</sup> And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;***

***<sup>24</sup> And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in Righteousness and true Holiness.***

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**We never will have FULLNESS OF JOY and PEACE and SATISFACTION until we get sanctified wholly and filled with the Holy Spirit.**

Ruth wanted to be identified with the people of God, so she had to leave the world behind. God's holy people are despised by the world, but the reason why few are despised today, is: We are so much like the world, we go where they go, do what they do and live a lot like they do. Ruth knew that her gods never brought any peace nor comfort to her soul. Her gods had not satisfied the deepest longing of her heart. Remember also that Naomi told Ruth and Orphah that she was going back empty, so there was no incentive in the natural realm for

Ruth to desire to go back to the Holy Land with her except FOR HER GOD and GOD'S PEOPLE. So she said:

***Ruth 1:16: THY PEOPLE SHALL BE MY PEOPLE and THY GOD MY GOD.***

**INVITATION:** Is the God of the Christians (The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) your God? Are the born- again people your brothers and sisters in Christ? Have you chosen THE LORD to be your God? Then you must be washed in the Blood of Jesus by repenting of your sins and receiving Christ as your only Saviour and Redeemer. Then, you will enter into the Kingdom of God, and into the Mystical Union with Christ-in-you the hope of Glory. The CHOICE is yours, the privileges are yours. Jesus will make you pure and spotless, as He redeems you by His precious Blood. Will you now come and let Jesus transform you and make you a genuine born again believer in Christ? Think of it!! These words are not those of a daughter to her mother but a daughter-in-law to her mother-in-law. What is more, this is a Gentile expressing tender love to a Jewish woman. Ruth backed up her words with deeds also, for she went and worked hard to help support Naomi, her mother-in-law.

I feel constrained to comment on Naomi, for had it not been for her living the life of a real child of God, a true believer in the Lord, Ruth would have lived and died a heathen in the land of Moab. There are some beneficial lessons we can learn from the beautiful life which Naomi lived before her daughters-in-law. Even in spite of the tragedies that came into her life of the loss of both husband and two sons, she did not lose her faith in The Lord, grow bitter or backslide. Naomi led Ruth into the knowledge of her God and eventually into fellowship with the people of God back in her homeland. Naomi won Ruth to her God (The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob), and she became a transformed woman.

Ruth represents THE CHURCH, the CALLED OUT ONES, who leave the world and heathenism, and respond to the Gospel of Christ and get born-again of the Spirit of God. We have the only MESSAGE OF SALVATION, the URGENT MESSAGE for lost and perishing humanity. There is no other message to change and transform the hearts of sin-diseased precious souls.



My earnest prayer is that God will manifest His power in our studies to reveal Jesus as the Only Saviour from sin, that the Holy Spirit will be present to convict and convert the lost to the loving Saviour.

May God help us to reach and win precious souls today to Jesus who are still wallowing in sins, sin-sick, broken hearted, and desperately in need of our Saviour, Jesus. May God remove all doubts and fears which come from the devil, and may God cause sinners to come to Christ . . . right here . . . right today.

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