

# Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 3 November 2024

## PENTECOST 24

### LOVE, ACTUALLY

Welcome 🙏

**Opening Prayer** (please pray together)

Spirit of God, bring us together in Your love and peace. Help us to be one in spirit and purpose. Grant us the strength and courage that Your Spirit brings. Empower us to live out our faith boldly, Amen.

**Q 1 Often when we talk about mother in laws, we expect some negative statement or humorous anecdote. Today's reading tells the story of Ruth who loved her mother in law. Many of us actually do love our mother in laws. Please discuss why.**

**Read Psalm 119.1-8 together**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—

<sup>3</sup> they do no wrong but follow his ways.

<sup>4</sup> You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.

<sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!

<sup>6</sup> Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.

<sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.

<sup>8</sup> I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

**Worship sing** 🎵

Song suggestions Take my life and let it be

All that I am

Blessed assurance

**Word Read Ruth 1.1-18**

**Naomi Loses Her Husband and Sons**

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup> The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. <sup>3</sup> Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

**Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem** <sup>6</sup> When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup> With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup> and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.” <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— <sup>13</sup> would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!”

<sup>14</sup> At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup> “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” <sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” <sup>18</sup> When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

**COMMENTARY** Jesus is a descendant of Ruth—the story does not end with no future for Ruth. Her line leads to Jesus. And through him, whether we have children or not, whether life is what we expected or not, we can know that Jesus knows us personally and remembers our name.

**Q 2** Ruths story occurred during the time of the judges. A period of disobedience, idolatry and violence yet there are always those who follow God and remain faithful, and through whom God works in powerful ways - have you ever met people like this? What did you see in them?

**Q 3** Jesus said love your neighbour? But what if they are Palestinian? What if they are vegan? What if they are a greens supporter? Ruth willingly becomes a refugee as she is so impressed by the God she sees in Naomi. She wants to know and follow this God. Please discuss

**Q 4** God is at work in this world. I know it may be hard to believe. God seems painfully quiet at times. Ruth was a Moabite and her new husband was a descendant of Rahab, a prostitute from Jericho. Ruth became the great grandmother of David and an ancestor in the line of the Messiah. What a profound impact Naomis life made! God really can work through anyone, anywhere and anytime. Please discuss

### **Works**

Who can we reach out to this week? Pray for one another, visit one another, share God’s love

**Ending Prayer** (please pray together)

Spirit of God, renew our hearts and minds today. Fill us with Your grace and peace.

Send Your Holy Spirit to guide us. Lead us on the path of righteousness and truth, Amen.

**Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)**