

# Ruth and Entering In Part Six



The time comes in all of our lives, after years of wandering in our own personal wilderness, that we are ready to enter in and know Jesus like never before. It will take a true hunger to press out of those old paths to find Jesus in a way that fills us with His Life. Yet it is encouraging to know that God is using each season in our lives to bring us unto Himself. We can see this in the book of Ruth. The time came when both Naomi and Ruth were ready to leave Moab to journey to the place of living Bread (Bethlehem). Yet before that time God used the years in Moab to help prepare them for all that was to come. There were the years in Moab when Naomi began to know God through her husband Elimelech. For Naomi those were precious years. During that same season Ruth was experiencing a union with Naomi's son that was fruitless and may have created a hunger in Ruth for the living God. All of the things these women went through became a part of God drawing them deeper into Himself. Their journey was progressive with seasons, and the seasons changed in God's time, and so it is in our lives. With these season changes we are faced with choices; life decisions based on heart determinations. These determinations are not in the realm of what we are required to do by commands, for Naomi urged Ruth to stop following and go back, making it lawful for stay in Moab (Ruth 1:8). The real issue is not right or wrong, or required duties. The issue is Jesus and Him alone. From that place of "Him" we can look into trial, famine, loss, and every other outward affliction and see His face and blessed opportunities to feast and fellowship in His Lamb-Life! The journey begins as the heart turns unto the Lord. Then we will see past giants and trials into the very face of the enthroned Lamb slain Who overcomes it all as He inhabits us as His wife.

Everything is in a holding pattern until something steps out of the temporal and into the eternal. Time is as empty dropping dusts of sand when people choose to remain in the wilderness of self. But when a heart touches the Crucified, touching even His bones as Naomi symbolizes in the book of Ruth, then time changes form and becomes eternal. Then flesh and vitality come into the dry and dead things. Life fills where empty vanity had reigned. Who could find the Eternal hidden in burnt stones, fiery trials, and two widows fellowshiping in a forsaken and crucified God? We may be despising the very thing God is trying to use in our lives to bring us into His fullness. Instead of waiting for our circumstances to change and get better before we can really be with the Lord, how about embracing Him in the midst of the very things He has allowed to be in our lives right now? Its our hearts that need to change and not our circumstances. Its our eyes that need to be opened to see what has been there all along, opportunities to be with the Lamb in real ways. The only thing that will make this year different than any other year in our lives is our heart's focus. If we desire to be with the Lamb then nothing can stop us from being with the Lamb, for truly it is in those fiery trials that we most purely know Him. Embracing Him in this way is the one thing that is going to make everything eternal and truly fulfilling.

## Sweet Fellowship on the Road to His Fullness

I believe that the best “communion and fellowship” that ever happened during the book of Ruth was not in Moab, Bethlehem or at Boaz’s house. I believe the sweetest fellowship happened as the barren and futureless widow and her foreigner friend walked the dusty path to find a bit of bread in Bethlehem. These two walked and talked being as one in the Eternal Lamb Spirit. What was sweet was not their circumstances but the Spirit within them and between them. Theirs was the Spirit that fills a land, brings forth a son, builds a temple and raises up a king. This useless Moabite is better to Naomi than seven sons simply by the way she embraced her in her embittered state... a heart willing to cleave to Jesus on His Cross and not just for His blessings (Ruth 4:15b). How foolish and despised are these “things of nought” as they walk along the road communing in a nature this world is not worthy of (Hebrews 11:38b). What a mystery is found with this bitter and forsaken Naomi and her Moabite cleaving to a crucified Christ. These beginnings are difficult to find as they are usually far removed from the realm of obvious blessings and hidden within a burial that shows no sign of a resurrection. The best feasts happen in those places. The sweetest savor to God rises from those small beginnings that we usually despise. Who has eyes to see that these two were not just walking from one location to another, but crossing over and entering into a deeper relationship with the Lord that would be more fruitful than anything they had experienced before? Some see the passage from wilderness wandering to entering into the Land of union with the Lamb as simply a doctrinal agreement without any active faith from the heart. The book of Ruth shows us certain aspects of the Jordan crossing that the Book of Joshua could not fully describe. May our eyes and hearts behold the importance of the journey, for each step these women took was filled with the living Bread of the One Who is the Land, even before they physically arrived in Bethlehem.

But how can we translate this Old Testament account into our practical daily walk? How can this be real in our lives today? Consider this, Ruth and Naomi could have been bitter and depressed based on their situations. If they chose bitterness as their portion, their fellowship would have been in a critical spirit of unbelief. Their communications would have been a stench unto God and pressed them deeper into depression and unbelief. But they beheld the very face of God in what most people would have called the face of defeat. How important it is to choose wisely those with whom we fellowship, that our communion may be in the Lamb and not the things of the flesh. There is Lamb-bitter and there is flesh-bitter. The Passover feast of the Lamb involved bitter herbs (Exodus 12:8). There was bitter involved in this feast but it was out from the slain Lamb leading the people deeper into God. There are other kinds of bitter feasts that are filled with poison and lead to death. The defiling of many involves a bitter heart (Hebrews 12:15). It’s not the lack of “bitter” in our lives that makes a difference, but what “kind” of bitter is in our lives. We all go through heart-breaking trials. The real question is, what kind of savor is going to be held in our hearts during those times? Will we hold our Beloved in our hearts like a bundle of myrrh (a bitter herb) (Song of Songs 1:13),... or will we be filled with offence that results in a bitter and critical spirit that can defile many? May the Lamb rule in our hearts and order our steps! More of Jesus, less of me.

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