

# Finding the Real Treasure

## *Ruth Part Five*



Christmas has become a season filled with a tradition of giving gifts. For many, the grander the gift, the happier the holiday. It seems foreign to consider a concept such as the greater the sacrifice the more blessed the event, yet Jesus Himself said that it is more blessed to give than to receive. How easy it can be to miss the beauty of the greatest gift ever given to man - God's own Son offered for all on the Cross. He is often lost amidst the sparkling ornaments and holiday bustle. This little lamb is hidden in the midst of the big events surrounding what once was a celebration of His birth. Many times when Jesus is seen it is only in light of how He can benefit us in our needs and wants. It is a rare thing for someone to seek to find Jesus simply because of a deep desire to know Him for Who He is regardless of personal cost or benefits. Yet love motivates someone to seek beyond themselves into the One Who is captivating their heart. The more we know Him, the more the cost seems as nothing compared to the Treasure we are finding in the beauty of His Person.

God's own Son was the gift God sent down from above. He came wrapped in human flesh and walked among us as Jesus of Nazareth. Although the man Jesus of Nazareth was truly the One the Father sent, this gift was not yet "un-wrapped" so that the true Treasure could be found. Only on the Cross did God "open up" and clearly display the true essence of His Son: a Lamb slain. The glorious unveiling of His innermost Nature on Calvary looked more like a scandal than a celebration. God's gift appeared more like trash than treasure for the Son looked like a criminal carried outside the camp for removal. He was counted as the off-scourging of the earth rather than the greatest gift ever given to it. This should cause us alarm at how easy it can be to miss the real Treasure of the ages, Christ crucified.

In our last article we looked at how easy it can be to despise the small beginning because we seek a redeemer that fixes our problems and benefits our lives, rather than a lamb Who becomes our Life. Yet with Ruth we found a person motivated by love. Ruth sought not a husband for herself but embraced the spirit of the God she loved and only found in a little widow named Naomi. She sought not the Jesus of resurrection blessings but the Jesus of Being. She smelled Him in Naomi. She felt Him in Naomi. She loved Him for Who He is and therefore loved Naomi. Ruth's treasure was the one she found hidden within Naomi. Ruth searched for that treasure by pressing past the surface into the nature of Christ hidden deep inside that little earthen vessel in her bitter state.

These are the very points that impressed Boaz later in the story (Ruth 2:11). These are the points that opened the floodgate of Boaz' heart to marry Ruth.

In many ways Ruth is a book of buying fields. We find that so very true in regards to how Ruth related to Naomi. What most would call a barren old field, Ruth joyfully sold everything to buy. Most would not want to buy a barren - looking field during a famine, but Ruth perceived eternal treasure in Naomi. She bought that field before Boaz ever showed up as a kinsman redeemer with barley harvests and hope. Ruth bought that field when it was barren and forsaken with nothing but the treasure deep inside. Ruth joined herself to Naomi when the only thing to join to was the beauty of nature within. Ruth cleaved to her core. Out from that treasured nature came all things and a glorious harvest. But whether feast or famine, fullness or lack, barren or fruitful, Ruth clung to the core as the real treasure and never let go all her days. This is evidenced at the end of the book when Ruth gives everything back to Naomi the one from whom it all came (Ruth 4:16). This is a type and shadow of honoring the Lamb slain above all that comes forth from Him.

These scriptures in Ruth, which are merely a type and shadow of knowing Christ as our Life, hearken a question for us today: Is our true treasure Christ for Who He is or what He gives us? Do we stick with Him only in the good times of blessing, and leave Him when things don't go our way? Is His value to us estimated only by how much good He is doing in our lives today? Or does His value come from the eternal treasure of His Lamb nature that the Father has exalted above all else (Phil. 2:5-9)? What do we cleave to - His core or His benefits? Who do we follow - Jesus of Nazareth in His teaching and miracles or the Christ of the Cross in His eternal nature? Have we sought out the One the Father sent? Do we see Him in the midst of it all and do we cleave to Him despite it all? Are we satisfied to merely receive Him as a package that we never unwrap?

I believe Ruth was found in the genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:5) because she cleaved to the core of Who Jesus really is, a Lamb. She found the real gift, unwrapped the package, and never let Him go. Glory to God, this woman is found in the genealogy of Jesus Christ not because of her own righteousness but because she became One with the One the Father sent and never let Him go. Praise God! What greater gift could we receive and what greater cause could there be for celebration? In some measure during this holiday season may we "unwrap Him" in the power of the Holy Spirit and cleave to Who He is with purpose of Heart. May the Lord bless your Christ-

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