

A silhouette of a woman wearing a headscarf is positioned in the upper center of the frame, looking towards the right. The background is a vast field of tall, golden-brown grasses, likely sorghum, under a warm, hazy sky at sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Rutba



ACT 2

“Ruth Goes All In”

Ruth 1:6-18

Ruth 1:6-7

6 Then [Naomi] arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. 7 So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

“If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.”
(2 Timothy 2:13)

Ruth 1:8-9

8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

- Naomi gives Orpah and Ruth a double command.

“GO! RETURN each of you to your mother’s house!”

- Naomi sends them with a double blessing.

“May Yahweh show you HESED! May the God of Israel grant you REST!”

Ruth 1:10-12

10 And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” 11 But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband...”

Ruth 1:12-13

12 ...”If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, 13 would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me.”



Ruth 1:14-16

14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. 15 And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” 16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you...”

Ruth 1:16-18

16 "...For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." 18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

“Orpah did the sensible, expected thing, Ruth the extraordinary and unexpected. Thus, Ruth models an adventurous faith, one willing to abandon the apparently sensible and venture into unknown territory. Whatever her motives—deep affection, a sense of loyalty, misguided idealism—she sacrificed her destiny to ‘cling to’ an aged, hopeless mother-in-law. One may understand Orpah; one must emulate Ruth.”

(Hubbard)

Ruth goes all in and as a result
experiences the salvation of God.

How does Ruth go ALL IN?

- She “clings” to her God-given spiritual family.

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father
and his mother and hold fast [cling] to
his wife.”*

(Genesis 2:24)

How does Ruth go ALL IN?

- She clings to our God of *hesed*, humanity's only true hope and Savior.

How does Ruth go ALL IN?

- She makes a definitive break with her past, turning from old attachments, old allegiances, old preferences, old identities.

How does Ruth go ALL IN?

- Ruth counts the cost and rejects the promise of earthly security in order that she might experience the salvation that comes from heaven.

“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”

(Luke 9:24)

How does Ruth go ALL IN?

- She puts feet to her faith and follows God into the unknown.

We understand Orpah, but to experience God's salvation we must emulate Ruth. So have you? Have you gone ALL IN?

“As they were going along the road, someone said to Jesus, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’” (Luke 9:57-58)

“To another Jesus said, ‘Follow me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 9:59-60)

“Yet another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’”

(Luke 9:61-62)

How does Ruth go ALL IN?

- She clung to her spiritual family.
She clung to God and his grace.
She made a break with her past.
She embraced earthly insecurity.
She put feet to her faith.

We understand Orpah, but to experience God's salvation we must emulate Ruth. So have you? Have you gone ALL IN?