

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

5/21/17

Text: Ruth 1:1-9, 14-18; 2:1, 8-12

Title: Loyal Love

Teacher: Stan McMahan

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Stan began our 4 part series on the book of Ruth, looking at God's loyal, self-sacrificing love. As we saw in the first few chapters, God's love is not a "touchy-feely, Hallmark Movie" love, but it is a loyal, covenant love that is Crazy, Committed, and Costly. It is only by embracing and experiencing God's love that we can possibly reach out to the people around us and offer them that kind of love and loyalty.

Reflection Questions:

1. *In this midst of one of Israel's darkest times, in the days of the judges, God gives His people a love story to remind them what kind of God He is, and what kind of love He offers.*
 - **What's your favorite love (or sacrifice) story from a book or movie?**
 - **Why does a story of love and sacrifice have such a strong impact on us?**
2. *Ruth expressed to Naomi a steadfast love, that she would not only stay with her, but she would forsake her entire way of life and be with her even beyond death. She had seen God's love and said, "I want in on that."*
 - **In verse 20, Naomi wanted to be called "Bitter" instead of Naomi (meaning "pleasant"). Have you ever experienced something so transforming in your life (good or bad), that you felt like you weren't the same person anymore?**
 - **When have you seen someone make a commitment like this, to love in the midst of such hardship and pain?**
3. *George Mueller, who had reached out and touched the lives of so many Orphans in Europe, was asked why he gave so much of his life to that endeavor. He said, "that's easy, George Mueller died a long time ago. On that day I realized that my happiness is in God's love...not anything else going on in my life...Since then I labored and lived in the sunshine of my Father's face." He knew God's love for Him, and lived to share it.*
 - **Who is broken in your family, your work, your neighborhood, school, Church, Community Group, city...that needs your Crazy, Committed and Costly love?**
 - **What do you need Holy Spirit to do in your heart so that you would "die to yourself" and be able to live "in the sunshine of your Father's face," and love like that?**

The Facilitator

A.C.T.S.

(Take time to list 1 or 2 things in each of these areas, then spend some time in prayer, confession and worship as a group. Begin with the ACTS questions and use the prayer items from the worship folder as suggestions if you're having a hard time coming up with answers.)

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions?

Praise God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for His steadfast love for you and all of His people. Worship Him for delighting in you and never letting you go!

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of or ways in which you are finite and limited?

How have you lived with a "me-first" attitude - aiming to satisfy yourself before thinking about blessing others?

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus for committing to your good even at the cost of His own life. Praise Him that you were brought from darkness to light by His life, death, and resurrection.

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of loyal, covenant love. Pray for the people in your life, asking God to give you His kind of love for them.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through this sermon?

Who do you know that struggles to be sure of God's love for them? Pray for them, asking God to give them a deep confidence in His unbreakable love.