



First Master Key **UNCOMPROMISING LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE GOD GIVES US**

RUTH 1:8, 9 NKJV

“And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each to her mother's house. 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 in the house of her husband.” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.”

Naomi thought it was the end of her hope...
But was only the beginning of something good.

Look closely at Ruth's reaction when Naomi suggests she leave her and go back to her ungodly roots.

“But Ruth held on to her tightly.” (RUTH 1:14 GWT)

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE

“Uncompromising love for people God gives you to love and care for will cause you to hold on tightly to them.”

POINT 1. Life and ministry is not a lonely walk. God intends for us to hold on tightly to those we love.

If we reject our responsibility to love those God gives us, at the end of our lives, our only companions will be loneliness, sorrow, and regret. We will have a deep wish that we could start all over again. We cannot!

If we selfishly put others second to our own ambitions, we will miss many great opportunities in ministry and life.

Relationships are not easily replaced. They are gifts from God. We must value and care for the people God gives us! Ruth clung to Naomi. She would not let go!

Think about the value of loving those God gives us!

- Our families
- Our friends
- _____

POINT 2. True commitment to our relationships will survive any situation or circumstance.

What Ruth and Naomi faced would never determine the outcome of the journey they were about to take. Commitment to each other would see them through to their victory. The Master Key to unlocking their success was found in their relationship. **How they valued each other was the key issue!**

RUTH 1:16 NKJV

“But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.””

Ruth did not let Naomi’s deep sadness influence her own attitudes. Do we allow our attitudes to be influenced by how others around us see things? Doing so puts great limitations on our lives and what we can achieve with them.

- Ruth declared her commitment. She had no idea where it would lead her., but she knew it was the right thing to do!
- We may not know where our commitment to those around us will lead us. We must never hesitate to do what is right. That is our calling and our responsibility before the Lord. There is eternal significance waiting for us when we care for and commit to the people we love.
- We ought never find our motivations from within our needs, our insecurities or even our ambitions. We must always find our motivations in the call of God to sow seeds of love into someone else’s needs.
- Ruth sowed seeds of love into Naomi. She knew Naomi was given to her by the Lord to love and care for. Ruth was committed and gave Naomi all she had (Just as the Lord did at Calvary).

Ruth's commitment to go and "stay" wherever Naomi went was not limited to the journey back to Bethlehem but was a commitment to share her home and circumstances, whatever they might be, after they returned to Judah. Ruth's renunciation of her people and gods was total. Your people my people, your God my God. Nothing but death would separate Ruth from Naomi. She swore a solemn curse if she did not keep her promise. It was a very dangerous trip that they made from Moab to Bethlehem. Two women traveling alone through dangerous territory. Throughout the Bible we see stories of people being attacked when they were outside the safety of the city walls. But God watched over them.

A RICH REWARD

(Ruth 2:8-12 GWT) "Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Don't go in any other field to gather grain, and don't even leave this one. Stay here with my young women. {9} Watch where my men are reaping, and follow the young women in that field. I have ordered my young men not to touch you.

When you're thirsty, go to the jars and drink some of the water that the young men have drawn." {10} Ruth immediately bowed down to the ground and said to him, "Why are you so helpful? Why are you paying attention to me? I'm only a foreigner." {11} Boaz answered her, "People have told me about everything you have done for your mother-in-law after your husband died. They told me how you left your father and mother and the country where you were born. They also told me how you came to people that you didn't know before. {12} May the LORD reward you for what you have done! May you receive a rich reward from the LORD God of Israel, under whose protection you have come for shelter.""

God is waiting to say to you, *Son, daughter, all that you do to care for those I have given you is fully reported to me.*

Ruth's was a living epistle of love. It was written on her heart. God had a rich reward for her – her husband Boaz. God has a full reward for us to when our heart motivates us to provide others with an opportunity for good success.

RUTH 2:15, 16 NKJV

"And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. {16} "Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.""

Mercy and grace would find Ruth, and the windows of heaven would be poured out. This happened because the love of God was written on Ruth's heart. All could see it her love and uncompromising commitment. And God was watching!

POINT 3. Commitment to love those God gives us will bring a full supply of God's provision and care.

PSALMS 36:7 NKJV

"How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings."

PSALMS 57:1 NKJV

"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by."

...And of course, the full message of PSALM 91.

PSALM 91:1-2

"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. {2} I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust..."

God provides us with clearly defined boundaries within which to care for those who are our responsibilities. These are boundaries of loving commitment to others and complete trust in God. It is only within these boundaries that we will find the satisfaction of giving and receiving God's love.

Ruth was under the shadow of God's wings in that barley field. God provided Boaz to bring seeds of love into her life. His seed would ultimately provide assurance, comfort, protection and provision for both Ruth and Naomi in years to come.

RUTH 2:19 GWT

"Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you gather grain today? Just where did you work? May the man who paid attention to you be blessed." So Ruth told her mother-in-law about the person with whom she worked. She said, "The man I worked with today is named Boaz." {20} Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May the LORD bless him. The LORD hasn't stopped being kind to people--living or dead." Then Naomi told her, "That man is a relative of ours. He is a close relative, one of those responsible for taking care of us.""

Naomi begins to see God's hand moving. She recognizes that Boaz is her close relative. She understands that Boaz has the potential, in his loving concern toward Ruth, to redeem them from the hopelessness of their situation. She instructs Ruth in the proper way to present herself to Boaz, at the place where he and his men are threshing the harvest.

Events follow their divinely ordained course. Boaz becomes their kinsman redeemer. He was a person who had the responsibility of looking after the needy people in his family. He was responsible to buy back any who were sold into slavery.

Boaz is a "type" of Christ, seen in the Old Testament. His example points to the Lord Jesus Christ, who would become our Kinsman Redeemer. He would redeem us from slavery to sin.

1 PETER 1:18-19 NKJV

“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, {19} but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

POINT 4. We will enjoy His divine protection!**RUTH 4:13-17**

“So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. {14} Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! {15} And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.” {16} Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. {17} Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “There is a son born to Naomi.’ And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.”

**POINT 5. The seeds of our love will bring their own harvest
...others who will value and love us.**

Ruth’s son Obed would one day sow seeds of love that would guarantee Ruth and Naomi comfort, provision and protection in the latter days of their lives. Then, in time, he would be the grandfather of King David. We know that the Lord Jesus Christ comes from the line of Obed and King David.

Our Five Points to Remember

- 1. Life and ministry is a walk in which we *cling* to those we love.**
- 2. True commitment to our relationships will survive any situation or circumstance.**
- 3. Commitment to love those God gives us will bring a full supply of God’s provision and care.**
- 4. We will enjoy His divine protection.**
- 5. The seeds of our love will bring their own harvest... others who will value and love us.**

1 PETER 2:4-5 NKJV

“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Uncompromising love for the people
God gives us our first Master Key.
Turn it and unlock your destiny!

