



Ruth's Open Door - Part 2: Covenant Love and Faith in the Unknown

by John Himmelberger

Intro

Ruth's story is more than loyalty, it's covenant. When she bound herself to Naomi and to God, it wasn't convenience, it was faith with skin on it. This teaching walks through what it means to love deeply and to trust God radically, even when the outcome is hidden. Through Ruth, we discover that bold love and bold faith often walk hand-in-hand.

My Intention and Assumptions

I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be 'salt' and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

About the Author

John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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Scripture Focus: Ruth 1:16-17; Ruth 2:2-3; Ruth 3:5-6

Introduction

The story of Ruth is one of the most profound illustrations of loyalty and faith in the Bible. Her actions demonstrate a covenantal love that reflects God's character and a faith that moves forward without knowing all the answers. Today, we'll explore how Ruth's life challenges us to live with the same kind of love and trust, even in the face of uncertainty.

1. Covenantal Love: Rooted in Commitment, Not Convenience

Key Scripture: Ruth 1:16-17

When Ruth said to Naomi, *"Do not urge me to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people will be my people, and your God, my God,"* she wasn't making a casual promise. This was a binding, sacrificial commitment. Ruth gave up her homeland, her culture, and any chance of security she might have found by staying in Moab.

This isn't just loyalty; it's covenantal love. Ruth bound herself to Naomi in a way that went beyond convenience or obligation. She was leaving everything familiar to her, trusting that her commitment to Naomi would lead to something greater.

This kind of love reflects God's own covenantal love for us; unconditional, enduring, and sacrificial.

Modern Application:

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1. **Marriage and Family:** Covenant love says, “I’m with you, no matter what.” Whether it’s supporting a spouse through illness or being fully present for your children and grandchildren, covenantal love prioritizes relationships over convenience.
2. **Friendships and Community:** Covenantal love in friendships looks like walking with others in their darkest seasons. It’s about standing with them when it’s easier to walk away, much like Ruth did for Naomi.
3. **Faithfulness to God:** Just as Ruth made Naomi’s God her God, covenantal love invites us into a deeper relationship with the Lord. It’s about walking with Him through every season, even when life feels uncertain.

Challenge: Reflect on the relationships in your life. Are you showing covenantal love, or is your commitment conditional? Pray for God to help you love sacrificially, as Ruth did.

2. Faith in the Unknown: Trusting God to Make a Way

Key Scripture: Ruth 2:2-3

Ruth’s faith came alive when she stepped into action. She didn’t wait for provision to fall into her lap; she said to Naomi, “*Let me go to the field and glean.*” Ruth didn’t know which field she’d end up in or whether she’d find favor, but she trusted God enough to take the first step.

Faith often means moving forward without all the answers, trusting that God will make a way. Ruth’s willingness to glean in the fields; a task meant for the poor and marginalized; was both humble and bold. It reflected her belief that God’s provision would meet her obedience.

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Modern Application:

1. **In Career or Financial Decisions:** Faith in the unknown means trusting God when the path isn't clear. Whether it's stepping out to start a business or taking a job that stretches you, God honors obedience even when we can't see the outcome.
2. **In Parenting:** Like Ruth, parents sow seeds in faith every day. You don't always know how your efforts will turn out, but you trust that God will bring a harvest in His timing.
3. **In Relationships:** Sometimes God calls us to love or forgive others without knowing if they'll respond in kind. Faith trusts that our obedience will bear fruit in His plan.

Challenge: What step of faith is God asking you to take today? Like Ruth, be willing to act in faith, trusting that God's hand is guiding you.

3. How Covenantal Love and Faith Work Together

Key Scripture: Ruth 3:5-6

When Ruth followed Naomi's instructions to approach Boaz, it was an act of both love and faith. She trusted Naomi's wisdom and believed that God was working behind the scenes to provide for them. Her covenantal love for Naomi gave her the courage to step into uncertainty, and her faith in God sustained her through the process.

These two principles; love and faith; are deeply intertwined:

- **Covenantal love inspires bold faith.** When we love deeply, we find the courage to trust God and take risks for the sake of others.

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- **Faith sustains covenantal love.** In seasons of hardship, faith reminds us that God is at work, giving us the strength to persevere in our commitments.
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Practical Takeaways

1. **Ask God for His Perspective:** When faced with uncertainty, pray for wisdom and courage, trusting that God sees the bigger picture, even when you don't.
 2. **Reflect on Commitment:** In your key relationships, ask, "Am I showing covenantal love, or is my commitment conditional?"
 3. **Take Small Steps of Faith:** You don't need to have all the answers to move forward. Trust God with the next step, knowing He will guide you.
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Closing Thought:

Ruth's life shows us that covenantal love and faith in the unknown go hand in hand. Her loyalty to Naomi and trust in God remind us that faith often means moving forward without all the answers, trusting God to make a way.

What step of faith will you take this week? What relationship will you invest in with covenantal love?