

Relationships

Ruth 1:16-17

“But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me’” (NIV).

Relationships are challenging. They require intentionality, humility, and an attitude of service. Often times, we do not want to take the effort to be involved in someone else’s life. We may run into someone and ask them how their day is, hear their quick response, and then walk away. How frequently do we take the time to truly see how another person is doing, and to walk along their difficult journeys with them?

Ruth serves as a powerful example of an individual who spent her life building an intentional relationship with her mother-in-law, Naomi. After Ruth’s husband died, along with Naomi’s other son and husband, Ruth was free to leave and begin a new life. If Ruth chose that option, however, Naomi would have been left alone, with nothing left to her name.

The dialogue between Ruth and Naomi found in Ruth 1:16-17 is incredible. Instead of Ruth leaving, she persisted in telling Naomi that no matter what, she would stay and live with her. She would take care of her needs, regardless of the fact that they did not have money, they were not married, and she had a life that could have been potentially better. Ruth devoted her life to be in relationship with Naomi. She put aside her desires to serve someone else.

Because of her servant’s heart, Ruth was blessed immensely by marrying Boaz, a distant relative of Naomi’s husband. Through him, Ruth and Naomi’s needs were met in remarkable ways. If Ruth had left Naomi, she would not have eventually conceived a son, Obed, with Boaz. The story of Ruth’s relationship with Naomi carries a great amount of significance because Obed was the grandfather of King David, and Jesus Christ was in the line of David. Relationships clearly are challenging, yet incredibly rewarding as well.

JMM

Point for Prayer:

How can you be intentional in your relationships with others?