

Sunday April 17th 2016

Ruth

Part Twelve

1). Ru 3:1 ¶ *Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security [Lit. 'Rest'] for you, that it may be well with you? 2 "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.*

a). We had seen last time that the instructions Naomi gives to Ruth at the beginning of v3 provide for us another way of looking at that which is pictured through Ruth's journey, her working in Boaz's field and beating out the grain, all of which have to do with seeking 'rest' after meeting Boaz on his threshing floor. Or, to say this in a more familiar way with respect to ourselves Mt 6:33a *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,*

b). We seek the Kingdom and God's righteousness by making the journey from the land of our birth to the land of our inheritance, by working in the Lord's field from the beginning of barley harvest to the end of barley and wheat harvest and beating out the grain, by washing ourselves and anointing ourselves – and as we do this we are performing what the scriptures call 'good works' or 'righteous acts' and it is these righteous acts that are the wedding garment to be worn by Christ's Bride in readiness for rulership in the 7th Day – Re 19:8 *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

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c). And we had also noted last week that the washing and the anointing are concurrent actions inseparable from one another, just as our journey and

work in the Lord's field as they speak of one and the same thing. And the common denominator that underpins all that is pictured through these actions is faithful obedience to the Word of God as we patiently endure, following the example given to us through Ruth.

d). And this same picture, from a slightly different perspective, has been given to us in foundation through the work of Abraham's oldest servant in Genesis Chapter 24.

2). *Ge 24:53 Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah.*

Rebekah we will remember is another of the foundational types for the faithful Christian and in the Genesis 24 account she had been selected by the oldest servant because she was drawing from the well of water. The drawing of water from the well presents the same idea as Ruth dwelling with her mother-in-law, a total reliance upon the scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

a). Also the drawing from the well of water implies the washing seen in Ruth, the washing of water by the word of Ephesians – something which is not specified of itself in the account of Rebekah, but would have to be accepted as present, because of the faithful Christian whom Rebekah pictures.

b). The jewelry of silver and jewelry of gold that the oldest servant gives to Rebekah corresponds to the grain purposely left for Ruth which are the good works prepared beforehand that we should walk in them, revealed to us through the written word as the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth –
1Co 3:11 ¶ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Building on the foundation which is Jesus Christ again corresponds to the good works prepared beforehand for us to walk in them, beating out the grain, dying to self, washing through the word etc. and the gold, silver and precious

stones with which we can build, seen here in 1 Corinthians, take us back to the jewelry of silver and jewelry of gold given to Rebekah by the oldest servant.

c). Abraham's oldest servant is a type of the Holy Spirit and the servant's search for a bride for Abraham's son Isaac pictures the Holy Spirit's present work of searching for a Bride for God's Son amongst the eternally saved.

d). Those Christians then who receive the good works prepared beforehand, pictured in the jewelry of silver and jewelry of gold, then 'build' with these good works by making the journey towards spiritual maturity, working in the Lord's field and beating out the grain, being washed and anointed, dying to self, removing the leaven, going to our High Priest for cleansing and those who do this will receive that pictured through the clothing given to Rebekah by the oldest servant, which is the righteous acts of the saints, the fine linen clean and bright, the wedding garment to be worn by the Bride.

Power Point – Slide 3

e). This is the incredible way that the scriptures tie everything together in fulfillment of how the scriptures say they are to be understood – line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, beginning with Moses. Seeing this take place through our own experience is so very encouraging as it not only validates the truth of scripture, but makes absolutely certain the coming of our Lord's Kingdom and makes abundantly clear what we must do to rule with Him in that Day.

3). 3 *"Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself,* - We have already seen that to wash our self is to be cleansed by the washing of water by the word and we know that this is a work of the Holy Spirit as He guides us into all truth and here in Ruth the washing is seen in conjunction with 'anointing yourself'.

a). In the natural anointing would take place with oil, but as we look at the spiritual application for this we should see that oil is used symbolically to picture Holy Spirit who, in the OT economy, would come upon an individual to empower that individual for service. Anointing for this purpose is something we can see with the Levitical priests in preparation for their service in the Tabernacle – Ex 29:4 *"And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water. 5 "Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod,*

and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod. 6 "You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban. 7 "And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.

b). We can also this anointing in conjunction with the Holy Spirit with regards to service as a ruler in – 1Sa 16:13 *Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.*

c). And really there is no difference in this and what we would see with regards to those who would be kings and priests in the Millennial Kingdom – not in the purpose for the anointing anyway – it is still for service - service as a servant in the Lord's House now, in preparation for service as a king/priest in that future day.

d). What is different from our perspective though is the means by which this anointing takes place in our life as it has nothing to do with pouring on oil. So, to begin, let's remember these verses from – 2Ti 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [Lit. 'God breathed'], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

All scripture then is literally 'God breathed', it is the breath of God that is 'breathed' into an individual in order for that individual to write the scriptures and the word which is translated either 'breath' or 'Spirit' from the Hebrew language in the OT, which gives us our first mention principle, is the same word – God's breath and God's Spirit are one and the same. And so, within the period of time we find ourselves, during this present dispensation, the Holy Spirit is to be found in the scriptures, ministering through the scriptures, empowering us for service, through the scriptures, just as we see from the verses from 2 Timothy.

e). Now, from our Ruth verse we have seen that we have to anoint our self, so how is it possible for us to 'anoint' ourselves with the Holy Spirit?

f). The scriptures of course give us the answer as we build on that which we have just learned - Eph 5:18 *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be [continually] filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in*

your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The word 'filled' here is in a verb tense that shows it to be a continuous process – we are to be continually filled with the Spirit.

g). And we are not left to guess what this entails because it is given to us in the companion verse to Ephesians 5:18, found in the Book of Colossians – Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

As we compare these 2 verses we can see that letting the 'word of Christ' dwell in us richly in all wisdom produces the same outcome as being continually filled with the Spirit, therefore we can know that we are continually filled with the Spirit by continually letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom. Or to say this even more simply, we are continually filled with the Spirit through our continual engagement with the scriptures as we study the word of the kingdom – when anyone hears the word of the kingdom.

h). This is an on-going process, seen through Ruth's continual obedience to Naomi's instructions and we know that this is also something that requires personal responsibility, 'anoint yourself'.

i). Now, does anyone remember Orpah? She, we will remember is the family member who chose not to make the journey with Naomi and Ruth and as such forms one of the types of the unfaithful Christian. Because she has not made the journey she has not continued in Naomi's instructions, nor has she worked a complete period of time in Boaz's field nor beaten out the grain and by implication she has neither washed herself nor anointed herself, yet despite this she still remains a member of the family and from the perspective of the Christian she possessed the ability to understand spiritual truth, but chose not to receive it. And how did she have the ability to understand spiritual truth? Through being indwelt by the Holy Spirit at the time of receiving the free gift of eternal life - 1Co 3:16 ¶ *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

j). We can see then that at our eternal salvation we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and then beyond this initial experience we are to intentionally be

continually filled with the Holy Spirit through our engagement with the word of the kingdom – letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom.

k). And we can see all of this presented very clearly for us in the parable of the 10 virgins - Mt 25:1 ¶ *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

All are virgins, all have lamps and all have oil in their lamps, but the wise have taken with them an extra supply of oil which the foolish have not. All have the Holy Spirit through the fact of their eternal salvation, but not all are continually filled with the Spirit – all Christians then are in-dwelt by the Spirit, but not all Christians are filled with the Spirit.

l). And having or not having the extra supply of oil is to be seen in connection with one thing only - Mt 25:5 *"But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.*

All is with a view to meeting the bridegroom having heard the cry concerning midnight – And why do we see Ruth anointing herself? To meet Boaz on his threshing floor at midnight - This is all to do with the Judgment Seat of Christ and what is to follow.

m). And as we follow through the scriptures we see that the conclusions are identical - Mt 25:8 *"And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

It is those 'who were ready', those who had the extra supply of oil, those continually filled with the Spirit who went in with the bridegroom to the

wedding. Those who were not ready found no place for themselves at the wedding.

o). Ru 4:13 ¶ *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.*

It is Ruth, who has washed herself, anointed herself and put on her best garment, and not Orpah, who becomes Boaz's wife.

p). And to carry this all the way forward to the events recorded in the Revelation one more time - Re 19:7 *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, [Pictured through the bridegroom and the wedding in Matthew Chapter 25 and marriage with Boaz in Ruth Chapter 4] and His wife has made herself ready."* [Pictured through the wise virgins having the extra supply of oil in Matthew Chapter 25 and Ruth washing herself and anointing herself in Ruth Chapter 3] *8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.* [Not seen as such in Matthew Chapter 25, but pictured in Ruth putting on her best garment in Ruth Chapter 3 and the clothing given to Rebekah and Rebekah covering herself with a veil in Genesis Chapter 24].

4). Ps 119:104 *Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.* 105 ¶ *NUN. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.* 106 ¶ *I have sworn and confirmed That I will keep Your righteous judgments.*

Pr 6:21 *Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck.* 22 *When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you.* 23 *For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,* 24 *To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress.*

Ro 13:11 ¶ *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.* 12 *The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.* 13 *Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and*

envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

a). We find ourselves in a time governed by ‘the rulers of the darkness of this age’, by ‘the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places’ and the only way we can successfully navigate our way through this time of spiritual darkness is to allow the word of God to be our light, a light that must be continually replenished.

b). And the only way we can find protection during this present darkness is through the armor of light, the truth of the scriptures which show us God’s plans and purposes, which show us how we need to prepare for the fulfillment of those plans and purposes, which give us the great and precious promises which will be ours if we will remain faithful - Heb 10:37 *"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

c). Isn’t this what the Book of Ruth is all about? Isn’t this what the Lord wants us to pick up and work with? He is coming in yet a little while and He so wants us to be ready, He so wants us to be prepared - Ge 24:67 *Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her.*

But, it is our choice isn’t it?

5). To continue on in Ruth - Ru 3:4 *"Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." 5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do." 6 ¶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. 7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. 8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.*

We have now come to the time in the Book of Ruth when her Journey from Moab is completed; she has worked for a complete period of time in Boaz's field and beaten out all the grain he had purposely left for her. Ruth has done all that Naomi had instructed her and she is washed and anointed and clothed in her best garment. There are no more instructions for Naomi to give, no more work in the field to be done, no more preparations to make.

a). Now all is dependent upon Boaz to respond to the woman that he sees before him.

b). And in these 5 verses we have pictured for us the resurrection/rapture of the 'Church' to appear before Christ at His Judgment Seat and if we have truly grasped the reality of this we will realize that the good works prepared beforehand for us to walk in them will come to an end; we will have finished washing and anointing and rather than continuing to follow the instruction of scripture at this point we will witness first hand that which we have studied and understood that has been prophetically revealed to us through the scriptures - 2Pe 1:16 ¶ *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 ¶ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

c). And if we have believed and understood and been faithful then the Judgment Seat can have no fear for us with respect to our outcome there, because God is faithful.

d). Nor should we be fearful that the Lord has set us a quota of work that we must accomplish which we have not finished – our outcome at the Judgment Seat is not about meeting a quota or making a deadline, but about faithfulness. It is always faithfulness that is judged and faithfulness that is rewarded - Mt 25:23 *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

e). It is our continued faithfulness as we patiently endure, as we keep working on the same sinful behavior over and over again if necessary, as we continually stumble and fall, go to our High Priest and pick ourselves up again, as we continue to study and continue to embrace the scriptures moving on to maturity, year in and year out for however long it takes. All the while totally dependent upon our Lord's grace and mercy as we hold fast the confession of our faith without wavering - *2Co 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 ¶ We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed-- 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

f). We will need to continue with this next time though – if the Lord is willing.