

“The Story” Study – Judges, Ruth

Class 5: Chapters 8-9

Chapter 8: A Few Good Men . . . and Women

1. DVD – Session 8

2. Chapter 8 Highlights:

- a. It is so important for people to know and serve the LORD, and teach others about Him. In these two verses, what is very good and what is very bad?
 - i. ^{NIV} **Judges 2:7** “The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.”
 - ii. ^{NIV} **Judges 2:10** “After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.”
- b. This is a very sad and reoccurring pattern in the book of Judges:
 - i. The people did not know the LORD, so they began to serve false gods.
 - ii. The LORD became angry, so gave them into the hands of their enemies.
 - iii. The people, when in great distress, cried out to the LORD in repentance.
 - iv. The LORD raised up a judge to save them.
 - v. The people honored the LORD until the judge died; then they fell away.
- c. Gideon is a more famous judge; the LORD used him to defeat the Midianites.
 - i. The Angel of the LORD, the very Son of God, appeared to him.
 - ii. He double-checked the LORD’s will with the fleece – once wet, once dry.
 - iii. The LORD reduced his army from 32,000 to 300; why? **See page 109.**
- d. Samson is also a more famous judge; the LORD used him to defeat the Philistines:
 - i. He was appointed before he was even conceived.
 - ii. He was a “Nazarite, dedicated to God from the womb.”
 - iii. He was oftentimes motivated by revenge; should we do the same (Romans 12:17)? Y N
 - iv. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him many times to give him strength.
 - v. His poor choice of women, their relentless pursuit of his secrets, and him giving in to their wishes was his downfall.
- e. What have you gained for your life from the book of Judges?

Chapter 9: The Faith of a Foreign Woman

1. DVD – Session 9
2. Chapter 9 Highlights:
 - a. Elimelek and Naomi lived in Bethlehem; they had two sons: Mahlon and Kilion.
 - b. Due to a famine in Bethlehem of Judah, they all went and lived in Moab.
 - c. While they were in Moab, Elimelek died; then Mahlon and Kilion married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth.
 - d. After they had lived in Moab about ten years, Mahlon and Kilion died – leaving Naomi and her two daughter-in-laws, Orpah and Ruth.
 - e. Hearing that the famine in Bethlehem was over and the LORD was providing for the people, Naomi prepared to return with Orpah and Ruth. Then, on the journey, Naomi encouraged Orpah and Ruth to return to Moab, find husbands, and have children.
 - f. Orpah finally went, but Ruth was committed to stay with Naomi. These words spoken by Ruth were part of promises spoken by Rev. May and Tiina at their wedding:
“Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God” (Ruth 1:16 NIV).
 - g. Naomi was sad – *her husband and sons were dead, and she had no grandchildren* – so she turned her attention to Ruth. Whenever our loved ones pass away, the Lord wants us to turn our attention to others who are in need of our help.
 - h. Even though Naomi had experienced struggle – *with the famine* and tragedy – *with the deaths of her husband and sons*, the LORD was still at work to provide for her and bless her. So, no matter how difficult our circumstances become, let us never give up on the LORD!
 - i. The LORD used Naomi to point Ruth toward Boaz; then the LORD worked through Boaz and Ruth to provide for Naomi.
 - j. Furthermore, the LORD granted a great blessing so that Naomi became the great, great grandmother of David: Naomi > Boaz/Ruth > Obed > Jesse > David
 - k. Even though many Jews thought that the LORD and His salvation were only for them, the account of Rahab *the Canaanite* and Ruth *the Moabite*, who are part of Jesus’ genealogy (Matthew 1:5), help us know His gift of salvation is for everyone!
3. Next Class: After the Season of Lent and Pastor’s trip to Africa, we will resume our classes on Thursday, April 14 at 7:30.
4. Assignment: Read chapters 10-11.