

# Tough and Courageous

Ruth 1

## 1. Intro

1. Last week we looked at Naomi and Ruth from a broad perspective.
2. Today we look at these ladies in more detail.

## 2. Poverty (3-4)

1. Confronted with poverty through no fault of their own.
  1. Their husbands died. Nothing to fall back on.
  2. It was not a result of poor life choices.
2. Many in our world face a similar situation.
  1. Wars, conflicts, disease may put them into a bad situation.
3. Even in our situation we sometimes face things beyond our control. (one step away)
4. If we are not experiencing hardship at the moment, let us realise that it is a blessing from God.

## 3. Courageous (6-7; 2:1-3, 17-19)

1. They were tough and acted with courage. (6-7)
  1. Took the first steps towards hope
    1. Willing to make a journey
  2. Took steps to seek assistance and reconnect with family. (2:1-3)
    1. Willing to work.
2. If given the opportunity, many people are resourceful.
  1. Many of us have been blessed because of resourceful women.

## 4. Trusted God (1:6, 8-9, 16-17; 2:12, 20)

1. Even though Naomi felt that God was against her for the moment, she still had faith (2:20)
2. Ruth placed her trust in the God of Naomi (1:16)
3. This trust allowed them to see forward.
4. Even though we may see tough time, our faith keeps us looking forward.

## 5. Blessed (2:8-12; 4:9-10,13-15)

1. They were blessed through the compassion of others.
  1. He greeted the harvesters with a blessing (2:4)
  1. God used the compassion of Boaz to restore hope and a future to both. (2:8-9)
  2. He instructed his workers to assist and protect Ruth.
  3. Naomi and Ruth moved from poverty to renewed hope because of someone willing to help.
2. We can be blessed by others and be a blessing to others.

## 6. Used by God

1. They were used by God to further His plans.
  1. Because they didn't give up they left a legacy.
    1. Ruth and Boaz became the great-grandparents of king David.
    2. Through the legacy we received our Redeemer, Jesus.

2. As believers, engaging in grace and compassion, we can be used to further the Good News of Jesus.

## 7. Conclusion

1. Are we as tough as Naomi and Ruth?
2. Can we be one step away from needing the help and compassion of others?
3. We need to be people of grace:
  1. Thankful for what God has provided
  2. Open to His grace in our current situation
  3. To be channels of grace for others.