



Female BFFs (Biblical Friends Forever)

Ruth & Naomi – “Ride or Die”

Read The Book of Ruth (*its only 4 chapters*)

April 2018

As I reflect on this beautiful friendship between Ruth and Naomi, I am reminded of something a very wise pastor once said, “those who walked with you in the desert deserve to dance with you in the rain”.

When the Bible introduces us to Ruth and Naomi we find them in the midst of tragic circumstances. Naomi moved with her husband and two sons from Jerusalem to escape a famine only to have them die in Moab. She and her widowed daughters-in-law are all mourning the deaths of their husbands, are in financial distress and shouldering these heavy burdens with no help – all they have is each other. At this point, life seems utterly hopeless.

Faced with the bitter reality that they have to start their lives over, Naomi decides to make the arduous 50-mile journey back to Jerusalem where the famine lifted, and the economy had improved. When she presented this to her daughters-in-law (Orpah and Ruth), they were faced with a tough a choice – abandon each other and look out for themselves or stick together and look out for each other.

Orpah weighed her options and chose to cut and run, but Ruth did something extraordinary; she made an irrevocable pledge of loyalty to Naomi (see 1:16-17). Ruth’s promise to Naomi conveyed a devotion of the purest kind – one that countless couples have since replicated as their wedding vows. With these words, Ruth abandoned her familiar setting to be a foreigner; she forfeited the option of marriage and children; and renounced her gods, pledging fidelity to the GOD of Israel. Sealing her commitment, which extended beyond death and burial, she invoked severe judgment upon herself if she broke her promise. Ruth did not just make a vow to her mother-in-law – she made it to Naomi’s GOD.

How GOD rewarded this friendship is none short of awesome. As Ruth took it upon herself to find humbling work to provide for them, He ordered her steps and worked one miracle after the next.

Before long, they were too busy harvesting GOD’s blessings to remember their pain. In seemingly record time every wrong condition of their lives was made right. Naomi sold her husband’s property to a wealthy relative who married Ruth and redeemed her deceased husband and sons’ names as part of the transaction. What’s more, GOD blessed Ruth, Boaz and grandma Naomi with a bouncing baby boy, who as it turns out, was King David’s grandfather.

We all love a happy ending, but few people are keen to stick-it-out with someone when their future seems uncomfortable and uncertain. Even as Christians, we rise to the occasion to provide comfort and support to a church member who lost a loved one, a home, job or is enduring failing health; but how long after the funeral services, rebuilding the residential and financial foundation or the diagnosis turns terminal does our comfort and support start to wane?

A couple years ago the Urban Dictionary added the term “Ride-or-Die” which means: “anyone (wife, boyfriend, best friend, etc.), that you will “ride” ANY problems out with or “die” trying”. As wonderful as that sounds, its not a new concept. The New Testament is full of commands and instructions for us to do this very thing. Jesus was the first one to not only command us to love each other this way, but he demonstrated it. John 15:12-13 (NLT) says: “12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Essentially, He is saying as I am willing to ride-or-die with you, do the same for each other. Not only are we called to have a friend like that, but to be that type of friend.

So, who’s your ride-or-die?

ACTION ITEM: *During this month of April, find someone in the congregation you don’t know well and make an effort to befriend them. Look for opportunities to be a source of support or encouragement to them.*