You are not a victim: The story of Ruth

**Experiencing progress and victory**

**Monday**

Read Ruth 1

Do you identify yourself as a victim or an overcomer? **Journalize** your thoughts.

**Tuesday**

Read 1 Samuel 30

You are not a victim of your circumstances through Christ Jesus! **Journalize** your thoughts.

**Wednesday**

Read Genesis 42:36,1 Thessalonians 1

Your perspective on life will determine your outcome. **Ask** God to give you His perspective on your life.

**Thursday**

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Isaiah 30:15-33

Don’t doubt yourself today. **Trust** the Holy Spirit’s leadership in your life.

**Friday**

Read Philippians 2:14-15, Psalms 30

Rise and shine! Don’t rise and “whine.” **Thank** God all day long!

You are not a victim: The story of Ruth

By definition a victim is a doubter. We doubt God and we tend really doubt ourselves.

Did you know that beyond trusting God, *God wants you to trust yourself*. You have a new identity in Jesus that you can finally trust. (You can’t and shouldn’t trust your old self)

2 Corinthians 5:17 New International Version (NIV)

**17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[a] The old has gone, the new is here!

Trust yourself to hear from God.

Trust yourself to follow God.

Trust yourself to make wise decisions.

Trust yourself to walk into freedom.

Trust yourself to be strong in Jesus.

Because as a victim we doubt, we are powerless, in a position of subjection.

When I live as a victim I only complain and suffer because I feel powerless to change my situation.

You are not a victim to your sickness

You are not a victim to your poverty

You are not a victim to your broken marriage

You are not a victim to your unbridled thoughts

You are not a victim to the change and uncertainty you are facing

You are not a victim to the depression that plagues you

You are not a victim to the crisis in your sexual identity

You are not a victim to your mental illness

You are not a victim of your loved one's addiction and out of control lifestyle.

You are not a victim through Christ Jesus!!!

*God has placed you in a position of control and authority and now it is time to exercise it. In fact this is what self control is...God giving you back control of your life.*

Example: Kyle and the bully

Instead of the hunted, you are the hunter.

Instead of the assaulted, you are the assailant.

Instead of stalked, you are the stalker.

You are assailing your sickness, poverty, obsessive thoughts...you are hunting down your worries, those undeniable feelings inside of you about your sexual identity. You are stalking those addictions that are destroying your child or loved on...*How? Through your new identity of victory...a victor's identity.*

Under the law of sin and death (Romans 8), *instead of a victim you are a criminal, a terrorist*,…you are no longer a victim of sin and evil.

*Why are you a criminal under this law? Because you are going to break that law every day of my life! You are going to rain down terror on sin and evil all day, every day.*

I am proudly a criminal of in the domain of sin and evil. I am openly and confrontationally breaking those laws.

Example of a victim's mentality

**Genesis 42:36 New International Version (NIV)**

**36**Their father Jacob said to them, “You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. **Everything is against me**!”

Your perspective on life, will determine your outcome.

* I am not deprived, I am blessed!
* It’s not all about me, it’s about God’s higher purpose.
* I may have lost some things in life, but look at all the things I still have.
* I might be fighting some headwinds in my life, but Jesus and I will prevail.
* Instead of complaining, I am going to praise and thank the Lord.

Philippians 2:14-15 New International Version (NIV)

**14**Do everything without grumbling or arguing, **15**so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky

Let’s look at two women spoken of in the Bible, one allowed herself to be a victim, and one refused to be a victim and therefore was a winner, a victor.

Ruth 1 New International Version (NIV)

**1**In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. **2**The man’s name was Elimelek, his wife’s name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

**3**Now Elimelek, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. **4**They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, **5**both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

**6**When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. **7**With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

**8**Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. **9**May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.”

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud (nothing wrong with this) **10**and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”

**11**But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? **12**Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— **13**would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord’s hand has turned against me!”

Entrepreneurial statement - “Its not where you start out, it is where you end up.”

The story of Ibok

**14**At this they wept aloud again. (Still nothing wrong with this) Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

Ecclesiastes 3 New International Version (NIV)

**3**

There is a time for everything,

    and a season for every activity under the heavens:

**2**

    a time to be born and a time to die,

    a time to plant and a time to uproot,

**3**

    a time to kill and a time to heal,

    a time to tear down and a time to build,

**4**

    a time to weep and a time to laugh,

    a time to mourn and a time to dance,

**5**

    a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

    a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

**6**

    a time to search and a time to give up,

    a time to keep and a time to throw away,

**7**

    a time to tear and a time to mend,

    a time to be silent and a time to speak,

**8**

    a time to love and a time to hate,

    a time for war and a time for peace.

**15**“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

**16**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.

A non-victim:

* Makes up their mind
* Perseveres
* Takes on a new identity
* Makes Jesus their God

**17**Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” **18**When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

**19**So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?”

**20**“Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara (bitter), because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. **21**I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

**22**So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

A victim complains a lot.

Jon G. - “Rise and shine, don't rise and whine”

A victim blames God.

Bad things happened to Naomi - that's undeniable. But she let those bad things turn her into a victim.

Being a victim is more than an attitude, it is an identity you embrace. Naomi changed her very identity to a victim, so much so that she wanted to change her name. Don't take on a victim's identity!

"I am disabled" - is that really who you are???? "With Jesus living in my life, I am made able!”

Example: Katrina victim

A victim is very self focused (this is all of us!). As soon as you get your eyes off of yourself, how you feel, which thoughts and memories are plaguing you, you start to win, to overcome, to beat what has been beating you.

All Naomi could think about was herself. Do you think she was able to move forward with this attitude? No!

A victim can't forget and therefore, can't forgive.

If you want to be trapped in life, blame God. You will never get anywhere when you blame God for all the bad that happened to you.

**Job 1:22 New International Version (NIV)**

**22**In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.