You are not a victim: The story of Ruth

**Experiencing progress and victory**

**Monday**

Read Ruth 1

Do you feel that you are victim to misfortune in your life? **Talk** to God about it.

**Tuesday**

Read Ruth 2

Learn to **talk** to yourself instead of listening to yourself.

**Wednesday**

Read Ruth 3

Turn the challenge you are facing into an opportunity. **Listen** to what God is telling you.

**Thursday**

Read Ruth 4

Non-victims live fruitful, productive lives. **Journalize** the differences between Ruth and Naomi.

**Friday**

Read 3 John 2:2, Proverbs 14:10, 1 Samuel 1

We all suffer at times, but God never intended for you to suffer indefinitely in your mind and soul. **Meditate** on how Hannah exited her “soul-suffering.”

You are not a victim: The story of Ruth part 2

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

Your perspective on life, will determine your outcome.

Ruth 1 New International Version (NIV)

**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.

**2**Now Naomi had a relative on her husband’s side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.

**2**And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.”

Ruth refused to be a victim. She lost her husband at a young age so she had more reason to feel sorry for herself than her mother in law.

A non-victim will take action.

You aren't going to find favor with anyone long term if you are victim.

“Don't worry about tomorrow, win today”

Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.” **3**So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

**4**Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “The Lord be with you!”

“The Lord bless you!” they answered.

**5**Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, “Who does that young woman belong to?”

**6**The overseer replied, “She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. **7**She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.’ She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.”

Learn to talk to yourself instead of listen to yourself – 6 time double iron man

**8**So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. **9**Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.”

Non-victims seem to end up in the right place at the right time.  Why? Because they have taken their eyes off themselves and they are alert and aware of what needs to get done, of other's needs. That positions them for success.

**10**At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?”

**11**Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. **12**May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

A non-victim naturally thinks of others and serves them and IT PAYS OFF FOR THEM. A non-victim is richly rewarded by God and learns to take refuge under God's protection.

**13**“May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord,” she said. “You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants.”

a non-victim speaks with grace and wisdom...an is authentic because they are confident…God-confident!

**14**At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.”

When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. **15**As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, “Let her gather among the sheaves and don’t reprimand her. **16**Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don’t rebuke her.”

A non-victim experiences the favor of God in their life and recognizes and appreciates even the smallest blessings.

**17**So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. **18**She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.

a non-victim gets visible, tangible results in their life that victims don't get.

**19**Her mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!”

Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. “The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” she said.

**20**“The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers.”

A non-victim will start raising the spirits of even the most staunch victim.

**21**Then Ruth the Moabite said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.’”

**22**Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else’s field you might be harmed.”

**23**So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Ruth 3 New International Version (NIV)

**3**One day Ruth’s mother-in-law Naomi said to her, “My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. **2**Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. **3**Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don’t let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. **4**When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.”

Non-victim take risks because of their faith. They are not afraid of getting hurt again. victim's stay hidden always nursing their old wounds.

Don't keep opening the pandora's box of your past. Its done, its the past, God's mercy is covering it, start looking forward and move to a higher place God has prepared for you.

Turn every challenge (change) into an opportunity

Stop defending and instead attack the opportunity.

Have this mentality - I have nothing to lose

**5**“I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered. **6**So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

**7**When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. **8**In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!

**9**“Who are you?” he asked.

“I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer[b] of our family.”

**10**“The Lord bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. **11**And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.

A non-victim develops a noble character. They are a non-victim for that very reason...they know they are a child of God and their painful experiences doesn't change that.

**12**Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. **13**Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

**14**So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.”

**15**He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.

**16**When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?”

Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her **17**and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

**18**Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

God gives non-victims the right connections, relationships with the right people

Take mental note of your close relationships. What advice are they giving you? Is what they are saying elevating you or bringing you down? Are they godly people?

Ruth 4 New International Version (NIV)

**4**Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, “Come over here, my friend, and sit down.” So he went over and sat down.

**2**Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. **3**Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. **4**I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.”

“I will redeem it,” he said.

**5**Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.”

**6**At this, the guardian-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.”

**7**(Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

**8**So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal.

**9**Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. **10**I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!”

**11**Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. **12**Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”

Naomi Gains a Son

**13**So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

A non-victim is going to live a fruitful, productive life.

**14**The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! **15**He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.”

**16**Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. **17**The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

**18**This, then, is the family line of Perez:

Perez was the father of Hezron,

**19**Hezron the father of Ram,

Ram the father of Amminadab,

**20**Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,[d]

**21**Salmon the father of Boaz,

Boaz the father of Obed,

**22**Obed the father of Jesse,

and Jesse the father of David.

A non-victim will leave a legacy, an example for those to come as to how to live.

Ruth had every reason to be a victim: foreigner, young widow, a super negative mother in law, but she didn't give in being a victim.

One thing is physical suffering, another is soul suffering. During and after physical suffering, your soul suffering doesn't have to last long. In fact, it shouldn't last long...that is detrimental to you, to your relationship with God and to your ability to move forward in life.

**Proverbs 14:10 New International Version (NIV)**

**10**Each heart knows its own bitterness,

    and no one else can share its joy.

It is ok to be distressed and suffer in your soul...for a short while. But after you have vented, cried, yelled and expressed your frustration and stress, get back up and keep moving forward. Rejoice in the Lord always!

**3 John 2 New King James Version (NKJV)**

**2**Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.