

The Rewards of Marriage
God Rewards Boaz and Ruth
Ruth 4:13-17

The Reward of Becoming One Flesh (Ruth 4:13) The biblical picture of marriage is that of a covenant. God's covenant to his people are described in marriage language. We see this crystal clear in Ephesians 5 in which Christ is the Groom and His Church is His Bride. God gives us instructions concerning marriage in **Genesis 2:24** ***"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."***

When we are married it displays to the world an illustration of God's model to point others to Jesus. Jesus is the Groom and the Church is His Bride. We are to take this covenant seriously. God wants to bless a marriage if He alone is the foundation. In order to take marriage seriously it means: We wait to do married things only in marriage. This means physically reproducing and the practicing of such should be only within marriage, living together is for marriage, emotional sharing of responsibilities is for marriage. The physical, emotional, and spiritual joys of marriage are rewards for those who take becoming one flesh seriously, it's God's reward, it's not a right! There have been studies that show the act of cohabitation contributing to the cheapening of the likelihood of marriage or even becoming the cause for divorce later on.

Young people, be pursuing Christ so intentionally and so intently that you see your mate in your peripheral vision while your gaze is focused on Christ! You must not look back for your mate, but they should be running just as hard and fast beside you in their pursuit of Christ as well! **2 Corinthians 6:14** ***"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?"***

The Resolve to Give Birth to Life (Ruth 4:13) I want to be very sensitive to this. I realize that not every husband and wife, one flesh team, can have biological children. I do very much encourage adoption! Adoption is the biblical picture of what Christ does for us! He adopts us! It's a beautiful reality when parents chose to love children for a lifetime, especially Christian parents. It is a very amazing thing! The granting of life biologically or through adoption means responsibility. For the parents, our responsibility is to practice **Deut. 6:5-7** ***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of the when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."***

The Results Are Beyond Our Comprehension (Ruth 4:14-17) Marriages are to point to Jesus Christ and this marriage literally did just that! We see here and from Matthew chapter 1 that Ruth and Boaz are parents that are critical to the line of David and ultimately the line of Jesus Christ. **2 Samuel 7:12-13** ***"When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I***

will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” This prophecy to David was fulfilled by Jesus Christ! Children are a blessing, it is incomprehensible what they will do and who they will reach for Christ! Hopefully my children will reach more people for Christ than I can. The prophetess Dusty Springfield said “the only one who could ever reach me was the son of a preacher man.” Can you sense the joy in Naomi’s life? Grandparents, that has to be a great feeling! Parents, it’s a miracle to have a child, it’s truly a gift from God! Jeremiah 1:5 states: ***“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*** The great privilege of marriage is to point people to Christ! The great privilege of marriage is to point our children to Christ!

a. The blessings for ages to come (Ruth 4:14-15)

b. The blessings for all who will come by faith (Ruth 4:16-17)

Application:

Marriage can be rough, but if we allow Christ to be our foundation and the source for healing our marriage, we will see God do miracles. Husbands and wives, pray together, spend time in God’s Word together, seek Christian counseling together. Center your world on Christ and strengthening your marriage through Christ alone together. When you are both actively pursuing Christ, you will naturally be drawn together. (Show the triangle diagram).

Marriage should go from being rough to being a reward in order to point others to Christ!

Anytime the Word of God is preached, it demands a response. I’m going to ask our men to be bold today. Men, if you’re wanting God to bless your marriage and use you to be the man He has called you to be, would you make that vow at the alter today?