



: Ruth Sunday 11 March 2018

The people in this series, if asked, would certainly not consider themselves risk takers in the sense of a bungee jumper. They do not do what they do for the adrenalin rush but rather because they believe it to be right, whether it involves risks for themselves or not.

Ruth is a really interesting book, one of only two in the bible named after a woman. In it God is hardly mentioned at all and his will and direction is never directly sought, yet in this book more clearly than almost in any other we see the interplay between God's purpose and human decision. God clearly had a plan for Ruth's life; whether knowingly or not the decisions she made and the actions she took led her along His path.

What comfort might we find here when we are faced with hard choices and cannot see the way ahead clearly? Can you give some examples from your own life?

Ruth makes a number of decisions which place her in some form of danger:

1. **She chooses to accompany Naomi back to Bethlehem.** Read Ruth 1: 8-18.
Why did she do it? What was the risk associated with her actions? Remember she was a despised Moabite – she would be an alien in a foreign land. And not only a foreigner but a female with no male support.
Read 1 Peter 2: 11. Why do you think we are described as aliens in this world? How should this affect our behaviour?
2. **She chooses to glean in the fields.** Read Ruth 2: 2-9.
Why did she do it? What was the risk associated with her actions? Ruth 2:9 gives us a clue. Where do you see God's hand in this? Can you give examples from your own life?
3. **She chooses to lay down at the feet of Boaz.** Read Ruth 3:1-5, 14.
Why did she do it? What was the risk associated with her actions? Ruth 3:14 gives us a clue. On the advice of her mother-in-law she uses everything at her disposal to get Boaz to notice her – finally proposing marriage to him (the cover me with your blanket reference.) In today's language we would probably say she set out to seduce Boaz. What lessons can we learn from her actions and how might they affect what we do today?

The final outcome of this book is nothing short of astonishing. Ruth becomes the great grandmother of King David and is the only non-Jew listed in the genealogy of Christ! What do you think it says about God's divine plan that He includes a despised Moabite in the lineage of His only Son?

FOR YOUR OWN NOTES: