

THE REAL LIFE OF RUTH

PART ONE: SHATTERED DREAMS

Ruth 1:1-5 ♦ Pastor Dean Lancaster ♦ April 7, 2024

Ruth's story takes place during a time of terrible famine, lawlessness as well as great personal loss, but we find an improbable love story-as only God can produce- amid uncertainty and fear.

Come as we travel through the book of Ruth and see how God responds when our lives are shattered.

God's Plan is Not Shattered

Ruth 1:3-5 *Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.*

Shattered dreams tell us God is up to something wonderful.

God is at work right now in the middle of your situation.

The book of Ruth reveals how the pieces of our shattered dreams are re-fitted into a picture we have not ever imagined could exist.

God's Promise is Not Shattered

Ruth 1:1 *In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab.*

God's promises become stronger anchors for us to hold to.

The promises of God become sweeter to us .

2 Corinthians 1:20 *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

When our dreams are shattered, God encourages us in our struggle to hope.

God's Power is not Shattered

Ruth 1:4 *They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth.*

God's power is desired and requested in our shattered dreams.

God's power is released through our shattered dreams.

God's power is realized in our shattered dreams.

Take this with you...

Reasons why we should love the book of Ruth:

- It displays that God is as real as our problems.
- It reminds us that God has plans when our lives explode.
- It reveals that God likes surprises.
- It gives us hope that love will always win in the end.