

Chapter 1 : Ruth aNd Hannah - [PDF Document]

Learning to Walk by Faith takes you on a journey through the lives of two women, to explore questions about faith and depression. With the timeless wisdom of the Bible, Alice Mathews helps you find answers you can apply to your daily life.

How To Deal With Depression. Although times have changed, human nature has not. Women as different as Ruth and Hannah can still help us see how to walk by faith. In the following pages, author, Bible teacher, and professor Alice Mathews shows us that women like Ruth and Hannah are especially important because of what they tell us about our God. She also explores the timeless truth that in the wisdom and grace of God none of us lives above the power of a decision or beyond the reach of our Lord. David Sper Cover Painting: Used by permission of Zondervan. It is my greatest joy and sometimes my besetting sin. I can lose myself in a good book when I should be doing other things. I have a second question: Do you ever sneak a peak at the ending before you get there? If you have ever sat down to read the little book of Ruth in the Old Testament, were you tempted to sneak a peak to see how the story ends? If you did, you were probably disappointed. The final verses of Ruth chapter the climax of the whole story--seem anything but climactic. What we find there is a genealogy: Can you imagine a duller ending for a story? An author would have to work hard to come up with something more boring and anti-climactic than that. All the way through we watch the author dropping hints of things to come--clues that draw us in, that keep us aware that the plot is thickening. Things could turn out several different ways. Why would the writer want to blow a good story with a bad ending? To understand that those dull verses at the end of the book really are the climax-- and a stunning climax at that--we have to go back and look at the rest of the story. Then, suddenly, a boring genealogy comes alive and makes sense. Our story is a play in four acts. The five principal actors on our stage are three women--Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah--and two men--Boaz and the nearer kinsman. The stage director is God. When the curtain goes up on the first act, we find a bitter old woman on center stage. To listen to her, it is clear that the Stage Director does not know what He is doing. Begin with the description of the setting as we read it in the script in Ruth 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. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. 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. The setting is in the time of the judges. Between violent invasions, tribal civil wars, and unchecked lawlessness, the Jews had to contend with constant trouble. Now a famine added to their misery. In Bethlehem--the House of Bread--there was no bread. Elimelech chose to take his family to neighboring Moab. While the trip to Moab was not a long one--not much more than 30 miles east of Bethlehem-- distance in the Bible, as H. Morton observed, is often measured not in miles but in distance from God. Moabites worshiped 4 the god Chemosh, not Jehovah. Elimelech and his family left the familiar for the unfamiliar, the known for the unknown. While in Moab, the family faced first the loss of the father, Elimelech. Then the sons who had both married Moabite women also died. The play begins with three widows in a gloomy, hopeless setting. Naomi, on center stage, has heard that once again Bethlehem is really the House of Bread. The famine has passed. Food is plentiful in Judah. She and her two daughters-in-law prepare to move to Bethlehem. The dialogue in our play begins in verse 8: May the Lord show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. They must stay in Moab. She kissed them-- a sign of release from any obligation to her. They had voluntarily stayed with Naomi after their husbands had died, but now they could not forfeit their own happiness just to care for her. Desperate, powerless to do anything for them, Naomi prayed that God would care for them and provide them with husbands who would care for them. But note what Orpah and Ruth answered: But Naomi tried again: Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? 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-- would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? It is also a lament accusing God of botching up her life. His

accountability for her situation. The second effort to persuade them had its effect on Orpah, who kissed her mother-in-law and started back to Moab. In the next verses we hear her unshakable decision to stay with Naomi: Where you go, I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me 1: With that Naomi gave up trying to talk Ruth into 6 returning to Moab. Can we fault Orpah for going back to Moab? Orpah did the expected thing. It is Ruth who did the unexpected. Ruth demonstrated what the Hebrews called hesed. God shows us hesed in sacrificing even His own Son to redeem us, to buy us back from sin. We see her making that choice with no husband and no prospect of marriage, devoting herself to an old woman. She might have wished for a crystal ball as she stood on that dusty road so many years ago. It would have been nice to see how her choice would work out. But she had none. She had to choose for God and Naomi with no guarantees. In verse 19 we see the two women arriving in Bethlehem where everyone came out to greet them. Suddenly hearing her name, Naomi, the old woman was reminded of the irony of that name. As Naomi continued speaking, her anger at God spilled over once again. The Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty 1: Throughout this first act we hear Naomi talking about God. She was conscious of His work in the universe and in her life. But as she talked about God, we see that she misjudged Him and she misjudged life. She stated that she went out of Judah full. They went out empty. Life was tough or they would not have left Bethlehem in the first place. Naomi also stated that God had brought her back empty. Naomi misjudged her situation when she misjudged God. She focused on the negative and became bitter. Calling herself Mara bitter, she looked at God and looked at life through dirty windows. Like Naomi, we can be religious. We can talk about God. We can offer prayers to God.

Discovery Series: Ruth and Hannah: Learning To Walk By Faith. Uncertainty in not knowing what lies ahead can be frustrating. In this study, author Alice Mathews explores the stories of two women in the Bible whose circumstances led them on a journey of faith.

She also explores the timeless truth that in the wisdom and grace of God none of us lives above the power of a decision or beyond the reach of our Lord. David Sper Cover Painting: Used by permission of Zondervan. Testament, were you? It is my greatest joy to tempt to sneak a peak to and sometimes my see how the story ends? I can lose you did, you were probably myself in a good book when disappointed. The final I should be doing other verses of Ruth chapter 4 things. Most of us who enjoy the climax of the whole reading know that a good story seems anything but story can take us out of the climactic. What we find humdrum sameness of our there is a genealogy: Amminadab, Amminadab Do you ever sneak a peak at the father of Nahshon, the ending before you get Nahshon the father of there? So you up with something more look. All the way through To listen to her, it is clear we watch the author that the Stage Director does dropping hints of things not know what He is doing. Begin with the that the plot is thickening. They were four acts. The five principal Ephrathites from actors on our stage are three Bethlehem, Judah. Now and the nearer kinsman. When she was left with her two curtain goes up on the first sons. They married act, we find a bitter old Moabite woman, one woman on center stage. After they the god Chemosh, not had lived there about ten Jehovah. Elimelech and his years, both Mahlon and family left the familiar for Kilion also died, and the unfamiliar, the known Naomi was left without for the unknown. Then of the judges. The play begins bloodshed. Between violent with three widows in a invasions, tribal civil wars, gloomy, hopeless setting. Now Bethlehem is really the a famine added to their House of Bread. Food is plentiful House of Bread there was in Judah. She and her two no bread. Elimelech chose daughters-in-law prepare to to take his family to move to Bethlehem. Morton observed, the Lord show kindness is often measured not into you, as you have miles but in distance from shown to your dead and God. Moabites worshiped to me. Why would Naomi knew that Orpah you come with me? Am and Ruth faced a bleak and I going to have any more uncertain future if they sons, who could become returned to Bethlehem with your husbands? They must stay in home, my daughters; I am Moab. She kissed them too old to have another a sign of release from any husband. Even if I obligation to her. They had thought there was still voluntarily stayed with hope for me even if I had Naomi after their husbands a husband tonight and had died, but now they then gave birth to sons could not forfeit their own would you wait until they happiness just to care for grew up? Desperate, powerless remain unmarried for to do anything for them, them? But note what Orpah What is the tone of and Ruth answered: His accountability for her returning to Moab. Orpah did the expected with her was to court thing. It is Ruth who did the disaster. In the Hebrews called hesed. Where you go, I will hesed for their beloved go, and where you stay I leader a hundred years will stay. Your people will later when they left the be my people and your wilderness and fought God my God. Where you their way into and out of die I will die, and there I Bethlehem to bring David a will be buried. May the drink of water from the town Lord deal with me, be well. God shows us hesed in it ever so severely, if sacrificing even His own Son anything but death to redeem us, to buy us separates you and back from sin. Ruth was a me 1: We As Naomi continued see her making that choice speaking, her anger at God with no husband and no spilled over once again. She might have away full, but the Lord wished for a crystal ball as has brought me back she stood on that dusty road empty 1: It would Throughout this first have been nice to see how act we hear Naomi talking her choice would work out. She was But she had none. She conscious of His work in the had to choose for God and universe and in her life. But Naomi with no guarantees. She two women arriving instated that she went out of Bethlehem where everyone Judah full. The came out to greet them. They went years since she had left. Life was tough Suddenly hearing her or they would not have left name, Naomi, the old Bethlehem in the first place. What did But in their place God had this presage for two poor given her the incredible widows newly arrived in devotion of Ruth, who town? Was he destined on the negative and became for some crucial role in our bitter. Calling herself Mara play? Ruth decided to glean, Like Naomi, we can that is to follow the reapers be

religious. We can talk during the harvest and to about God. We can offer pick up from the ground any prayers to God. But if we grains left behind. In this misjudge Him and His act, Naomi moves to the work in our lives, we easily stage wing and Ruth misjudge all that touches us. As act one and chapter In Ruth 2: But the follow in the next act. She would also lies divine purpose. One more adequate meal. At the end coincidence! The wealthy, of her first day of gleaning, influential relative of she returned to Naomi with Naomi owned the field a shawl full of winnowed and happened on the scene grain. The Bible tells us that while Ruth was there! Ruth and Boaz together in What happened when the same field. What would she returned to Naomi that Boaz do? Of course, the Obviously, things are older woman wanted a full turning out well. By following his meant that she had gleaned instructions carefully, Ruth in a good place. Where had would be protected from she gone? In whose field young men who might try to had she gleaned? Read her plan in when Ruth answered her 3: Is not What does that mean? Boaz, with whose servant Why is that important? The girls you have been, a curtain descends slowly on kinsman of ours? Tonight our second act. Wash and perfume the play is not over. Act three best clothes. Then go is about to begin. God has know you are there until provided food for the two he has finished eating widows. But that is only a and drinking. When he short-term solution to lies down, note the place their needs. Ruth needs where he is lying. Then go a husband. Naomi and uncover his feet and needs a son to preserve lie down. He will tell you her inheritance and to carry what to do. As the Thus Naomi began to barley and wheat harvests answer her own prayer for end, Naomi cooks up a Ruth back in Ruth 1: We are was to marry the widow. The not to wait passively for first son born to them then events to happen. When an became the legal heir of the opportunity presents itself, deceased husband and we may need to seize the continued his name, initiative. Naomi did just inheriting his property. Here we see Ruth be in a secluded spot where using a strange old custom they could talk privately. One reason he would not take unfair is that as a woman in our advantage of Ruth.

Chapter 3 : Read Ruth and Hannah - Learning to Walk by Faith

Though centuries separate you from the world of Ruth and Hannah, you'll find their stories still resonate with your spirit today. Learning to Walk by Faith takes you on a journey through the lives of two women, to explore questions about faith and depression.

Chapter 4 : Hannah: "Learning to Walk by Faith" lesson 1 by Ian Chew on Prezi

Ruth and Hannah Learning to Walk By Faith Download Now. of two women in the Bible whose circumstances led them on a journey of faith. Discover how you can move.

Chapter 5 : Learning to Walk by Faith - Ruth and Hannah - Bible Study Guide by Alice Matthews

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Chapter 6 : Duta Harapan Dunia DSBS Ruth & Hannah - learning to Walk by Faith

"O Lord Almighty. we hear her bitterness of soul Hannah addressing God: wept much and prayed to She made a www.nxgvision.com Ruth & Hannah pp 9/27/04 PM Page 26 If you have ever she tried to help Elkanah been in the black hole understand her misery of depression.

Chapter 7 : Ruth and Hannah: Learning To Walk By Faith | Why is This Happening?

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