



Radical Devotion

RUTH 1:1-18

Pastor Todd Dugard

February 6-7, 2016

WARMING UP

1. Can you remember any time(s) when you, like Ruth, stood at a major crossroads in your life and couldn't have imagined what God would do in the future? What happened?

DIGGING IN

As a true follower of Jesus Christ, I will be radically devoted to . . .

2. *The purpose God has for me: "Where you go I will go" (v. 1-16a).*
 - What circumstances lead to Ruth's amazing affirmations in v. 16ff? Is this about fate, fluke, or something else? What is going on behind the scenes? How do you feel about God's working? What is your response?
 - What is Naomi's purpose at this point in the story? What would it cost Ruth to align herself with that purpose? What is our mission as the followers of Jesus? What might it cost us to align ourselves with this mission? To what degree are you committed to this disciple-making purpose? How so?
3. *The place God has put me: "Where you lodge I will lodge (v. 16b).*
 - Pastor Todd shared his and Cheryl's story of "lodging" for many years in St. Thomas and now "lodging" here in Barrie for 15 years. What is this "lodging" concept all about? Why is it so important for us to have a settledness about our place?
 - Have you figured out your specific micro calling within the macro calling (making disciples) that is true for all believers? If yes, share it with your group members. If not, how could you move toward recognizing and embracing this calling? Have you ever asked God if you are where he wants you to be in terms of your service for him?
4. *The people God has given me: "Your people shall be my people" (v. 16c).*
 - What is Ruth actually pledging when she says, "Your people shall be my people"? How is this a significant statement about her identity moving forward?
 - If you are in Christ, you have been adopted into God's family, and thus the church is made up of your spiritual brothers and sisters. Do you have a "your people shall be my people" level of devotion to the people of Harvest? How are you demonstrating this? How are the "one another" passages from the New Testament a good measuring stick in this regard?
5. *The praise God desires from me: "Your God my God" (v. 16d).*
 - How is Ruth's "Your God my God" statement a declaration of personal faith? How is this the starting point of worship? What needs to happen in order for a person to become a genuine worshipper?
 - What are the key elements of our worship together as a congregation? How engaged are you in these corporate expressions? What does a lifestyle of worship look like? How are you doing at praising God with your life?
6. *The perseverance God requires of me: "Where you die I will die" (v. 17-18).*
 - Why does the New Testament affirm an enduring spirit? What does this prove? How does a verse like Matthew 24:13 mesh with Ephesians 2:8-9?
 - Pastor Todd said, "Radical devotion is getting slammed to the ground and getting up with faith intact." What is the level of your perseverance in pursuing God—no matter what? Where do you need to shore up your commitment?

BREAKING OUT

7. What was God speaking to you about through this message? On a scale of 1-10, how radical is your devotion to the Lord himself and to his ways? Pray for the dedication of Ruth.