

SERMON REFLECTIONS

Ordinary Christians, Extraordinary (Godly) Choices

Ruth 1 | 14 April 2024 | Rev Dr Aaron Tay

Reflection Questions

1. Read Ruth 1 as a group.

Did the Lord impress any truths/blessings/promises (it could have been mentioned during the sermon) from this chapter of God's Word to you? Please share.

2. Elimelek brought his family to Moab because of a famine in the land of Israel. It was a major decision for his family. Elimelek did what he believed he had to do to keep his family alive, but was it the best decision? Was it a godly decision?

We do not know the factors surrounding Elimelek making the decision to relocate his family to Moab, but what about ourselves? What are the major decisions you had to make in your life OR the crisis/challenges/dilemma you had to face – how did you decide what to do? Did you involve God in any way? How did He respond?

3. In the sermon, there are four pointers shared regarding how to discern the Holy Spirit's guidance:
 - a) Draw near to God through spiritual disciplines (e.g., studying God's Word, praise and worship, spiritual retreats, etc.)

Our Vision

To be disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We exist to make disciples who love God, love one another and love the lost



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- b) Listen – develop a listening heart to the Holy Spirit’s voice (learn to pray prayers found in Scriptures)
- c) Respond to the Spirit’s initiative and invitation (when you believe the Lord is speaking to you) – to pray or act in faith.
- d) Discern the Spirit’s will with other believers.

Discuss the above pointers – do you understand what they mean? Are there other ways to discern the Spirit’s leading/guidance?

- 4. The name “Elimelek” means “God is King”. There are many Christians with good Christian names, with good Christian upbringing, and will celebrate faithfully the Christian festivals (Easter and Christmas). But would they do what Elimelek did? Elimelek’s life did not really show that God is king over him – he left the Promised Land.

What does it truly mean to be a Christian, a disciple of Christ? In the sermon, it is said that we ought to seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance for the major decisions of our lives. Are there other ways to be a disciple of Christ?

- 5. In the sermon, it is said “Elimelek became like other people on earth, and was subjected to chance, and consequences of his or other persons’ actions, without the explicit protection of God.”

What do you think of the above statement? Do you agree or disagree? Do you think God’s blessings and protection are automatically given to all His children in their earthly lives? If so, why then do we have Christians who are suffering?

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6. The book of Ruth reassures us that God is aware of our pain and He cares. He sees our struggles and wants to see us through our pain. And one of the main ways which He helps us is through the Family of God (just like Naomi was helped by her family member Ruth).

How has/can God's people help one another? How can we as ordinary Christians make extraordinary (godly) choices? Share your experiences, or what you have heard.

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