



RUTH

TRAGEDY & TRIUMPH

in the providence of God



**Full devotion receives God's
favor.**

2 Chronicles 16:1-4

In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Basha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah. Asa then took the silver and gold out of the treasuries of the Lord's temple and of his own palace and sent it to Ben-Hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus...

2 Chronicles 16:1-4 continued

“Let there be a treaty between me and you,” he said, “as there was between my father and your father. See, I am sending you silver and gold. Now break your treaty with Basha King of Israel so he will withdraw from me.”

2 Chronicles 16:7-9

At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: “Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. Were not the Cushites and the Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen?”

2 Chronicles 16:7-9 continued

Yet when you relied on the Lord, he delivered them into your hand. **For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully devoted to him.** You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war.”

2 Chron. 16:7-9

God searches for and strongly supports devoted followers.

Deuteronomy 30:17-19

But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to the other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses...

Deuteronomy 30:17-19 continued

Now chose life, so that you and your children may live and **that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life,** and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Deut. 30:17-19

**Devotion to God involves love,
obedience and perseverance.**

Philippians 3:10-14

I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me...

Philippians 3:10-14 continued

Brothers and sisters, I do not count myself yet to taken hold of it. **But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Phil. 3:10-14

**Following Jesus is an “I’m all in”
commitment that grants him
priority over everything else.**

Luke 10:27

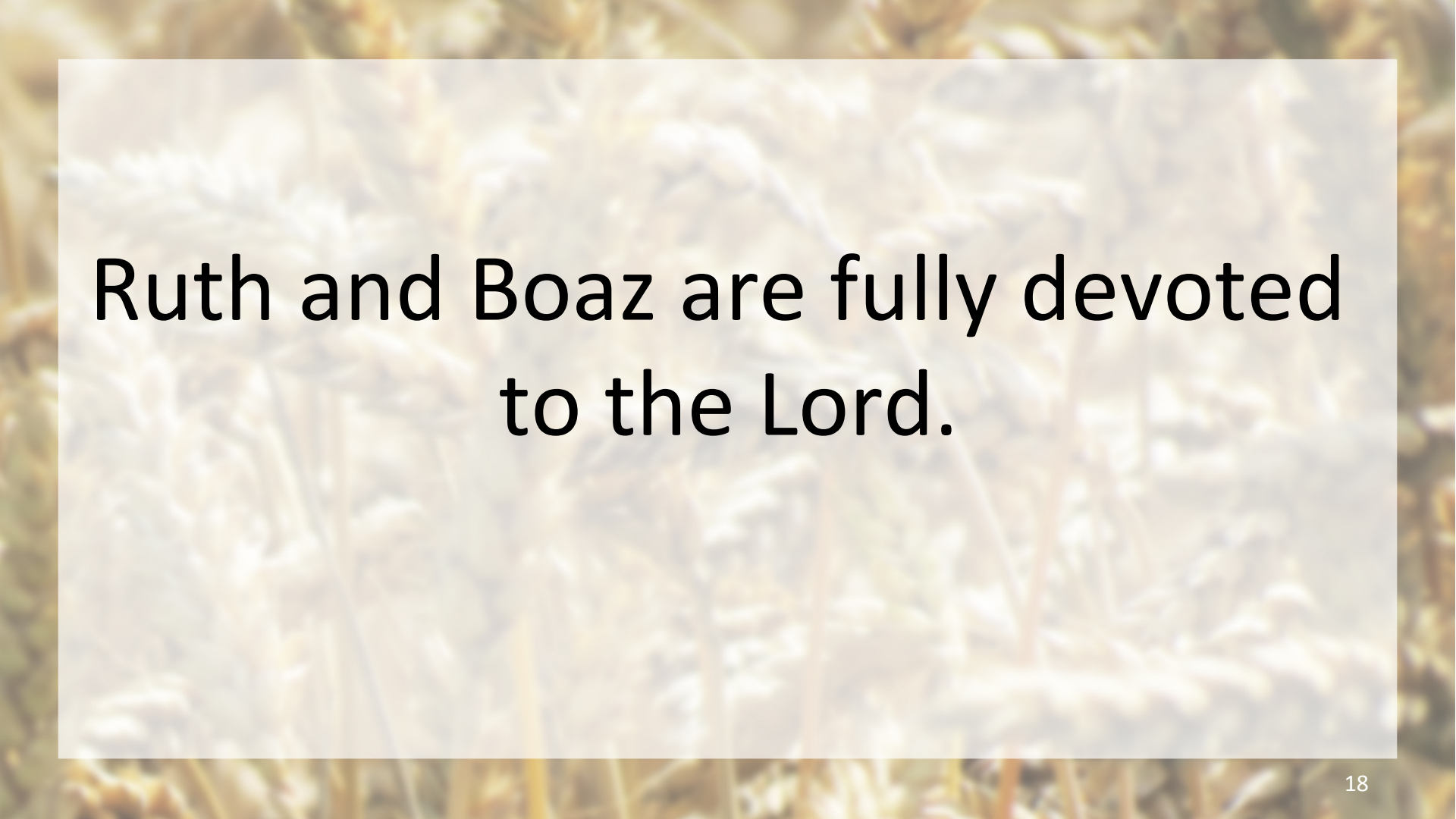
....Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.

Luke 10:27

Loving God is the foundation of devotion.

**Full devotion includes love,
loyalty, faith and obedience.**

**Full devotion receives God's
favor.**



Ruth and Boaz are fully devoted
to the Lord.

Ruth 2:11-12

Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you **left** your father and mother and your homeland and **came** to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded **by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.**

Ruth 2:1

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.



**Full devotion makes all the
difference.**



God lavishes blessings on them.



**Obedience to God benefits the
whole world.**

Deut. 4:5-6

See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land your are entering to take possession of it. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”

Deut. 4:7-8

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

For Reflection

- Remember who God is
- Reflect on what He has done for you over time
- Consider whether you need to Renew your devotion to Christ
- Is Jesus really God?
- If so, what has He done to demonstrate this to you?
- Is Jesus, the word of God, and the Church worth your devotion?



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