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Ashes To Diamonds

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SS cofc 9-14-97 P.M. Sermon #1370 (1.)

Intro: Subject: Ashes to Diamonds

Sermon title: "Ashes to diamonds" or "Beauty from Ugliness."

THE Reverse can also be true: "Diamonds to Ashes." Beauty to Ugliness.
The Book of Ruth contains both phenomena of Life. Look at last trial.

Ruth 1:1-2:

BC 1322.

I "Diamonds to Ashes": In the days of the Judges (My Dad is King.)

1. Married with good Israelite - Elimelech:
Good husband, good father, good provider
+ astute land-owner, farmer, rancher
and business-man.

2. His family was wife, Naomi (beautiful)
1st Son : Mahlon - (a son.)
2nd Son : Chilion - (Perfect one.)

3. Home: "Bethlehem-Judah" - usually
fertile + green. Gentle rolling hills
where angels would sing to the
Bethlehem Shepherds 1,292 yrs. later.
at the Birth of the Christ-child!

Bethlehem:

4. Land hit by severe + prolonged
famine. Elimelech losing crops,
Cattle + personal wealth.
Looked around! Moab, across the Jordan
east doing fine. "Pack up boys + get
the herds ready to travel. Did.!"
To Moab.

5. Elimelech forgot three things:

^{moabites!} ~~Exod. 9:1-2~~ ^{moabites!} ~~2. Neh. 23-25~~ (2)
a. God's Law: Deut. 7:1-7. No mixed marriages with God's chosen people; nor mixing of blood with the blood of the heathen, idol-worshippers and Pagans. God's design: Pure blood-line from Abraham to the veins of the Messiah. Violate this and "I will destroy you!"

Sorgat: #2 b. Num. 32:23. "your sins will find you out!"

Sorgat: #3 c. Principle: Prov. 13:15. "Lead understanding gives favor, but the way of the transgressor is H & R D!" ^{Elem. headed for hard times & didn't know it.}

1:3- 6. Disaster struck Naomi in Moab → Diamonds to Ashes:

a. Husband (Patriarch gone) ^{mantel shifted to} his sons: Leaders!

b. Mahlon died. Mantle of authority fell on Chilion. One leader left.

c. Chilion also died. No heir to carry the family name, no support for Naomi.

d. The death of Naomi's family left 3 Widows.

3 { Naomi - "beautiful"

Ruth - wife of Chilion - ^{fulfilled or satisfied}

Orpah - wife of Mahlon - ^{"the face"}

Naomi's family in the ^{Diamonds to dust} "Dust of the ground!"

7. Naomi's ^{made a decision} Recovery from Disaster.

a. collected her cattle, sheep and other possessions and headed for home after 10 yrs. (V.4) away from home.

V.9. b. Her plan: to leave Ruth + Orpah in Moab to re-marry and establish ^{THEIR} family ^{THEIR} at home.

c. Orpah finally acceded to Naomi's persuasion + went home.

READ:
1:16-18

d. Ruth's compassion had other ideas. She "COULD NOT" let this sorrowing-widow go home alone. So, made the 120 mile trip back to Bethlehem with Naomi. Her heart's desire recorded: READ.

II Ashes to Diamonds.

1:19-22 A. Naomi well-received back home. ^{neighbors all survived the famine!}

B. Naomi asked for a change-of name.
Naomi to Mara!
(Pleasant) (Bitter) Still deep in grief.

C. She gave the Lord full credit for her pitiable state. V.1:20-22.
^{We were guilty!!!}

Now: D. Naomi + Ruth in a poverty state. Only solution = "Lean" in neighbor's fields. This Ruth did! Beggars can't be choosy!

(4)
E. Ruth was treated extremely kindly by their neighbor, Boaz.

Now: F. Boaz was a "near-kinsman" to Elimelech & the boys. Was subject to the Jewish Levirate Law. (Deut. 25:5.) Came up in Matt. 22:23-33. Marriage in Heaven question Sadducees dilemma!?

Bro. marry a brother's widow - !

Law: designed to keep "land" in each family's possession and help perpetuate the pure blood-line toward the Messiah.
Also perpetuate the family NAME.

Preserve the Monarchy for the Messiah!

G. Naomi guided Ruth through the process of notifying their next of kin of his responsibility to RUTH.

a. all done very discretely & tastefully!

HOWEVER: (a nearer-kinsman ^{was} notified first. He Rejected the Land & the Lady. Had his own family & enough LAND etc.
Boaz fulfilled the Law!

H. Naomi now picked up the pieces of her blemished life as the Lord turned her ashes to Diamonds! 4:13-17a.

Blessings:
(1. God gave Ruth a Husband.
(2. God gave Naomi an heir to the family NAME and LAND.
(3. God restored HAPPY LIFE to a long-suffering Grandmother.

AND:

(4. God gave enormous FAME ⁽⁵⁾ to RUTH, to Naomi, and to BOAZ through this son of Boaz and Ruth.

(5. His name was Obed - "Servant OF GOD".

(6. Obed begat a son, ^(wealthy) Jesse, and Jesse begat eight sons - the most famous of whom was King David.

Point of interest:

(7. The blood of ^{Gentile} Ruth, the Moabitish woman, thus entered into the Messianic Jewish blood-line of Jesus and is so listed in Matt. 1:5.

Lessons to us from the Book of Ruth:

1. God can fulfill His Eternal Purposes in an "imperfect" world and ultimately through "imperfect" people. Hope for us!

(Note: "Three" Gentile women in the O.T. are listed in the Jewish blood line of the Messiah: Amor, Rahab, the harlot + Ruth, the Moabitess.)

Lesson #2

2. Regretfully the innocent so often suffer with the Guilty in sin.

Inv. There is ["]good-news["] in this Bible Story.

Good-News for ["]each["] of us.

Viz. We may transgress God's Laws, either willfully or ignorantly - and maybe pay some penalty now - BUT we can: →

Still

CAN 1. RECOVER our fellowship with God.

CAN 2. Know that RENEWAL is possible!

3. And CAN receive REDEMPTION thru a penitent heart and an appeal to God to forgive us?

If any ^{ONE} in this audience tonight has a spiritual-need - that we can help you with - please come share that need with us! - Come NOW - as we stand & Sing!