

Setting Your Heart

on the

Kingdom



RUTH

From the Despised to the Destined

(The Principle of Prejudice and Reversing Evil)

Ruth 4

Of all the people that were hated by Israel, the Moabites were among the most despised race. They were descendants of Moab, the son of Lot by an incestuous union with his daughter. Furthermore, they worshiped the detestable idol, “Chemosh”...a violent god of war. “Baal-peor” was another of their deities, producing sensual rituals that drew the Israelites into idolatry as they made their way to Canaan (Num. 25:1-4). But the most revolting practices of the Moabites were their human sacrifices, even burning their own children as offerings to Chemosh and Baal. Yes, Moabites were a fiercely hated and despised race of people. Yet Ruth (who became the wife of Boaz, great grandmother of King David, and ancestor of the Lord Jesus Himself) was a Moabite!

Sin is a devastating force that corrupts the human race. It not only alienates people from God, but it breeds hostility toward one another. *One such sin is prejudice...that cruel disposition of the fallen nature that pre-judges and stereotypes people according to race, gender, age, social status or past history.* Prejudice is totally foreign to God’s nature. Therefore, God in His grace and mercy, raises up and anoints those whom the world despises, and in so doing, He humbles the proud (1 Cor. 1:27-31). The epic book of Ruth is one of God’s finest redemptive stories...and so are you!

Think back, dear Christian, and remember your life before Jesus graciously came into your heart. *Lost in sin and headed for destruction, you were an enemy to God. Yet He chose you, in spite of your past, and gave you a glorious destiny.* Now think again. Think of people you don’t like... perhaps because of their actions, their culture or the color of their skin. Does the Lord love them any less? If they enter into a covenant with the Living God, will He not bless them and give them a spiritual heritage as well? Because of Ruth’s covenant with Naomi, she found favor with Boaz...and with the Lord. *Likewise, through a repentant heart and God’s covenant of redemption in Christ, a despised heritage of sin and dishonor can be reversed.* Never underestimate the transforming power of God. In God’s Kingdom, you are destined for honor...regardless of your despised past.

Next Week: The Kingdom of God in 1 Samuel...A Prayer That Moves the Heart of God

