Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Morning Worship Service:

Pastor Doug Warren February 5, 2023

Ruth 1:11-14

Dare to Hope

1. Naomi Warns Her Daughters-in-Law (11-12).

2. Naomi Struggles With Her Own Bitterness (12-13).

3. Orpah and Ruth Make Different Choices (14).

Conclusion: Naomi warns her daughters-in-law of the cost of following YHWH. She feels the hand of the Lord against her. If they are to choose life, they must understand it will cost them everything. It is worth it, but she wants them to make their decision with their eyes wide open to what it means. To pledge loyalty to the God of the Bible is to forsake all else. To whom are you clinging?

Hebrews 6:17-20

So when God desired to show more convincingly to *the heirs of the promise* the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, *we who have fled for refuge* might have strong encouragement *to hold fast to the hope set before us*. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast *anchor of the soul*, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Acts 2:36-41

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "*Save yourselves from this crooked generation.*" ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized ...

John 10:27-30

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. *Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live*, ²⁰ *loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him*, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the *Lord swore to your fathers*, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."