

## **INTRODUCTION**

**A. THE GOSPEL OF RUTH** (1:1 to 4:17,22; Ps.78:9f/65f; see Col.1:13; Ps.30:5; *Post Tenebras Lux*)

**B. FRIENDSHIP IN THE BIBLE** (Gen.12:1f; 15:16(Ex20:1f; Dt7:7f); Jms.2:23/4:4; 2Chr20:7; Is.1:8; marriage)

### **C. THE CHARACTER OF FRIENDSHIP**

1. love, grace (Dt.4:37f; 7:7f; 10:15; Ps.47:4; 78:68; Eph.1:4)

2. devotion, loyalty, trustworthiness, faithfulness (Ex.34:6; Dt.7:9; Is.49:7; Hos.6:6)

3. mercy, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-discipline, self-sacrifice; benevolence, generosity (Ex.34:6(Jms.1:19); Gal.5:22f; 1Cor.13; Eph.4:22f; Col.3:5f; Lk.6:27ff; see Gen.1:26f)

## **I. FRIENDSHIP COVENANTS IN THE GOSPEL OF RUTH**

**A. RUTH TO NAOMI** (1:14(Gen.2:24),16; 4:15; see Ex.6:7a&b; 20:1&2f)

**B. BOAZ TO RUTH** (2:5f; 3:9f; 4:1f)

**C. GOD TO BOAZ** (2:1f,4(Gen.26:3); 19,20; 4:6f,11f)

**D. NAOMI TO OBED** (4:16,17(v.5; Dt.25:5f); Rom.9:4; Eph.1:5)

## **II. FRIENDSHIP COVENANTS IN THE GOSPEL THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE**

**A. ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD** (Gen.5:22,1f (6:9; 3:18; Ps.119:35) // Ruth 4:21,18f; i.e., 7<sup>th</sup> of 10)

**B. DAVID & JONATHAN** (1Sam.18:1f,3(20:16; 23:18) /Lev.19:18,34; Mt.22:39; Eph.5:28,33 /Hiram; 1Kngs.5:1)

**C. JESUS & MARY, MARTHA, LAZARUS** (Jn.11:5,36)

**D. JESUS & JOHN** (Jn.19:26; 20:2; 21:7,20)

**E. JESUS & PAUL** (Gal.2:20; see Jn.15:13)

**F. JESUS & YOU!** (Jn.15:13,15(Rev.1:5); Lk.12:4; Rom.8:37f; 15:30(5:5); 2Co13:14; Eph.1:4,5; 2Th2:16; Heb12:6)

## **III. WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS!** (see Jn.15:13,15)

**A. REPENT FROM YOUR FRIENDLESSNESS!** (Eph.2:1f,12)

**B. ASK JESUS TO BE YOUR FRIEND!** (Mt.11:28; Lk.11:13,9f; see Ruth 3:9f; Jn.15:13f)

**C. TREASURE THE GIFT OF HIS FRIENDSHIP!** (Mt.26:28 with Jn.15:13; see Lk.5:20)

**D. BECOME A FRIEND IN-DEED!** (Jn.15:14; see Prov.18:24b; 1Sam.18:1; see Col.3:17-4:6; e.g.,  
LORD ⇄ Boaz ⇄ Ruth ⇄ Naomi ⇄ Obed; 1Jn.4:19; see Lev.19:18; Mt.22:39; Gal.6:10)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP**

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. How is the Judges cycle (rebellion, retribution, repentance, restoration) evident in the book of *Ruth*?
7. How is it true to think of the book of Ruth as the Gospel of Ruth?
8. What is friendship in Biblical terms? How is this similar and/or different in comparison with the current ideas of friendship?
9. What lessons of the friendships in Ruth are most striking or most helpful to you?
10. Which friendships in the Bible are most striking or most helpful to you?
11. Is it difficult for you to think of Jesus as your friend? Of you as Jesus' friend? Why or why not?
12. Do you have any friends? If not, why not? If so, what is the nature of your friendships including theirs to you and yours to them?
13. Is Jesus a friend to you?
14. Are you a friend to Jesus?
15. How is the Lord's Supper a particular enjoyment of friendship with Christ including His to us and ours to Him?