

## STARVING

We are presently ending the first week of our 21-day all church fast... we are encouraging everyone in the church to be involved in whatever way you can.

### Fasting is not about the food

- Fasting is about getting **close to Jesus**....
  - Getting to **know Him** in greater dimension than ever before
  - To **hear His voice** more clearly than ever
  - To follow Him more intently than we have before

**Philippians 3:10** – “**That I may know Him**, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;” (KJV)

**Hebrews 10:22** – ... **let us draw near to God with a sincere heart.** (NIV)

As we begin/continue this time of fasting let us **draw near to Jesus**...

- Let our minds be set on **that I may know Him**....
- Let our confession be mold me and make me after your will...
- TCC – Let’s draw near to Jesus!

**The book of Ruth is not about fasting**... but it is a book that has a lot to say about how to prepare ourselves for the bridegroom

- This is our quest... To know our bridegroom Jesus more intimately every day... so this is a real relational journey

Ruth was a **widow**... who returned Israel from **Moab** with her mother-in-law Naomi ... empty, **poor**, in mourning... with **little hope**...

During this time Naomi sent Ruth into the **field to glean** grain left over from the harvest... (Israel’s way of helping the poor)... to a field that was owned by one of her relatives (Boaz)... as she worked Boaz took notice and blessed she and Naomi... with an abundance

**In Chapter 3** Naomi now gives Ruth instruction on How to get close to Him with the intention of marriage...advice if you want to get close to your bridegroom

**Ruth 3:1-5** – Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? <sup>2</sup> Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup> Therefore **wash yourself** and **anoint yourself**, put on your **best garment** and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, **uncover his feet, and lie down**; and **he will tell you what you should do.**”<sup>5</sup> And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.” (NKJV)

Naomi gives Ruth five pieces of advice if you want to catch the attention of Boaz Because fasting is all about getting close to Jesus... I want to give you the same five words of encouragement today that will help us draw near to our bridegroom.

## Freshly Wash

... there is a cleansing aspect to fasting not only physical and nutritional... but a **fresh spiritual washing**

**2 Corinthians 7:1** ... dear friends, **let us purify ourselves** from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness **out of reverence for God.** (NIV)

- Self-examination... **Let us purify ourselves**... this is not grace for salvation ... this is responsibility before God
- Perhaps Habits tendencies...we have picked up from the world or attitudes of this present age... Maybe attitudes or negativity that has not existed in our life until no
- Out of respect for Him!!
  - **Song of Sol 2:15** ...Little foxes that spoil the vine...

**Ephesians 4:21-22** – “<sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> that you **put off, concerning your former conduct**, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.” (NKJV)

- During this time of fasting we are to **hear from Him and learn from Him**... get to **know Him better**... Then respond in obedience... put off that former way of life

**To Wash Means** ... allow the Holy Spirit to pinpoint things that he wants to deal with... do not wait for trauma, tragedy or trial...

**Isaiah 1:16** – “<sup>16</sup> Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.” (NIV)

- Please understand fasting is not only our pursuit of Jesus... **but His pursuit of us...He wants more of us as well**
- Yes 100% saved now he is sanctifying us in that soulful realm of the way we think and act

**Ephesians 5:26-27** – “<sup>26</sup> that **He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,** <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (NKJV)

Wash- Freshness from the trappings of the world

## **Freshly Anoint**

This was in real terms put on your **best perfume**... rub that beautiful fragrance in and cover yourself with it.

**Ephesians 4:24** -...and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (NKJV)

- TCC - Anoint yourself...Righteousness and true Holiness... truth in the inward parts... obedience and not sacrifice

**2 Corinthians 2:15- For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ** among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (NIV)

**Q.** What do our lives look like (Smell like) to others?

**2 Peter 1:5-8**... giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue**, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup>to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup>to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup>For if these things **are yours and abound**, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

- Personal growth and how Jesus smells to the World

TCC- When we **put on forgiveness** we smell like Jesus... when we **put on unity** we smell like Jesus... when we put away negative speech... we smell like Jesus... when we ...Bless and do not cure

## Fresh Clothing

**Ruth was in mourning**... a widow... she was in a time of grief... wore mourning clothes Naomi... time to turn the page...

- There **is a time to mourn**... but there is **a time to turn the page**... if you want to get close to the king to your bridegroom... **be fitly clothed**
- He understands the pain of your life... but **now is the time to put on a new garment**

**Isaiah 61:3** – (The Spirit of the Lord is on me) <sup>3</sup>...To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, **The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; that they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” (NKJV)

**Carolyn's Happy**... I noticed her joy for life and said, “She is the one!!”

- Anointed with oil of joy...now we clothe in praise!!

**TCC** – It's time **to put on the garment of praise** for the spirit of heaviness. It's time to **turn the page**, it's time to **forgive and heal**.

- Fasting will show you clearly how to do this.

## Fresh Submission

**Ruth 3:4** – “Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.”

**Jewish culture this was a sign of submission in Israel... I fully commit my life to you in a fresh way**

- My life ... my desire... my will my dreams I submit to you
- I sit at your feet.... I humble myself and bow down at the feet of Jesus
- Not my will but yours.... I'm not in your face I'm at your feet

**This is not about who I am in Christ... this is me saying... At your feet I humble all that I am and all that I ever will be**

- I need you to take care of me... I want you to be my protector... I want you
- Jesus is the only one ...way maker!!

This is what awaits you in this fast!! TCC-

## Faithfully Compliant

**Ruth 3:4** – Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, **uncover his feet, and lie down**; and **he will tell you what you should do.**<sup>5</sup> And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”

Fasting is saying yes to Him...

- Whatever it takes... **whether it increases me or costs me** ... my submission will turn into joyful obedience

When this happens the bridegroom notices.