

GodSense

Lesson 3 (Principles 10-21)

TEACHER NOTES

I. Review Lesson 2 assignment

II. Introduction

It's not about you.

Oswald Chambers: All I do ought to be founded on a perfect oneness with Him, not on a self-willed determination to be godly.

When we realize that, really accept that, then God's love flows through us to transform us, to empower us, to use us and to enable us to accept ourselves as His dearly loved child.

III. It's about Him

Romans 8:1-4

Read Romans 7:17-8:4

(Notice how chapter 7 ends – man's efforts lead to despair; then change of focus: Holy Spirit mentioned 19 times in chapter 8)

A. God fulfilled the law (*judicial handling of sin: Jesus/cross*)

B. Therefore, we are

i. Not condemned (*imputed righteousness*)

ii. Free from law of sin and death

iii. Alive in the Spirit

IV. Choosing your focus

Romans 8:5-9

Ruth chose to follow God of Israel

This study is based upon the book entitled *The GodSense Devotional* by Beverly Van Kampen. If you have any questions about this material or if you would like to know more about *GodSense*, please visit the author's website at www.beverlyvankampen.com.

- A. Mind set on what Spirit desires (*experiential handling of sin; imparted righteousness*)
- B. Mind controlled by the Spirit *Ask the class to list the contrasts between the mind of man and the mind controlled by the Spirit.*
- C. Results: Life (*on earth and eternal*) and peace (*with ourselves, with God, with others*)

V. Taking the risk Romans 8:10-17

Ruth left Moab, worked in the fields, approached Boaz

- A. Life given to our bodies (*will be given new bodies, but even now God cares for our physical needs, enlivens us, heals us, we should be as kind to our bodies as God is*)
- B. Put to death misdeeds of the body (*most sins that plague us are connected to the body; victory over sin accomplished by the Spirit, not by willpower*)
- C. Live as children of God (*not as slaves, but as children who go to their Father and ask for direction for the day – what are we going to do together?*)
- D. Share in Christ's sufferings (*When we suffer, we do so with new understanding; we share in suffering of Christ*)
- E. Share in Christ's glory (*see next verses to see what that glory will be*)

VI. Taking stock Romans 8:18-27

Ruth endured hard times; married Boaz; bore Obed

- A. Difficulties now (*live in a fallen world; God uses our troubles to conform us; we share in the sufferings of Christ*)
- B. Good times to come (*inheritance, heaven, wholeness, united with God, God's approval*)
- C. Joyful expectancy (*attitude is one of hope, peace, anticipation*)
- D. Spirit's assistance (*growth comes through yielding*)

VII. Changing from the inside out Romans 8:28-34

- A. God is working all things together

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- B. Changing us to be like Jesus
- C. Called, established, completed
- D. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, is making sure it happens

VIII. Radical results Romans 8:35-39
(Remember end of chapter 7; now notice ending of chapter 8 – the difference is the work of the Holy Spirit)

- A. Confidence *Our value comes from God, not from our own efforts*
- B. Security *Nothing can shake us; nothing to fear; nothing can separate us from God*
- C. Hope *We are winners; we know the end of the story*
- D. Fulfillment *We WILL be like Christ*

ASSIGNMENT

Lesson 3

Bible study

Read the Book of Ruth and answer the following questions:

1. In Chapter 1, how did Ruth show that she believed in the God of Israel?
She chose to go with Naomi to Bethlehem where she could follow the ways of Naomi's God
2. What characteristics of Ruth do we see in her willingness to work in the fields gleaning grain?
She was humble enough to do menial work if it meant survival. She showed ambition in working without taking a break. We have no record of her complaining, just of her persistent labors.
3. What does Boaz do that shows he took notice of her?
He calls her over to talk to her; he provides her water to drink and protection from the male workers. Then he instructs the reapers to leave behind extra grain for her to glean.
4. What did Boaz say he had heard about her?
What she had done for her mother-in-law since the death of her husband; how she left her homeland and come to live with strangers. Later he says that his fellow townsmen have told him that she is a woman of noble character.
5. What action did Ruth at Naomi's direction take that showed she was willing to take a risk in her walk with God?
She presented herself to Boaz at the threshing floor as Naomi instructed her to do. This must have seemed to Ruth to be a strange thing to do, but she followed the custom of the land even though it seemed she was risking her physical safety as well as possible rejection.
6. What steps does Boaz have to go through in order to marry Ruth?
He had to approach a closer relative and offer to let him marry her and redeem her family's land. When the closer relative was not willing, Boaz did pay to redeem the land and was able then to marry Ruth.
7. How does Naomi's perspective change throughout this story?

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At the beginning she has changed her name to “Marah” which means “bitter.” She blames God for all her troubles. By the end of the book she is a happy grandmother welcomed into the home of Ruth and Boaz and being acknowledged by the women in town that she has been blessed of God.

8. What is the significance of the birth of Obed?
He became the grandfather to David, the line through whom the Messiah would come. This showed God’s acceptance of a Gentile into the line of Christ and honored Ruth for her obedience to God’s ways.

9. What do we learn from Ruth about committed obedience?
We usually do not see the results of our obedience, but must move forward when God tells us to do so, knowing that he will work all things together to fit into his perfect plan for us and for those around us.

Journaling

Make a list of the things that are important to you. Think of all the areas of your life and subcategories within those areas: job, finances, church, children, marriage, home, physical health, beauty, relationships, God. Try to prioritize what seems to be most important based on the amount of time and attention you give to the area. Does this exercise reveal to you any changes in priorities that need to be made? Are you willing to make them? Write about the thoughts you are having as you review your list.

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer asking God to show you if there is any area of your life which is not totally committed to him. Wait for his answer and respond as your heart directs. Remember that anything short of total commitment will hold you back from deepening your relationship with God. Write down any act of obedience that you need to take. Ask the Holy Spirit to move in your heart and enable you to do whatever it is that God is asking you to do. Move forward in his strength, not your own. Thank him for what he is about to do in your life as a result of your willingness to be totally committed to him.