

NAOMI & RUTH

God's Non-traditional Family



God's Non-traditional Family

- Sometimes families are not structured in the traditional manner, through no fault of their own.
 - One parent families due to death or scripturally lawful divorce.
 - Orphaned children taken in by relatives, older siblings raising younger, etc.
 - No sin or stigma is attached, but it still is necessary to follow God's rules for the family.

Naomi Felt Inadequate To Lead The Family

- Ruth 1:8 - "Go back to your mother's house."
 - Ruth 1:11-13 - Physical inadequacy.
 - Ruth 1:19-21 - Emotional inadequacy.
- None of this removed responsibility from Naomi.
 - God knew she was up to the task.
 - We may not feel able to handle the pressure, but I know of no one who can be entirely objective about himself. Those who follow us have confidence in us.
 - Cannot reject the task; make the best of it; lead your follower to heaven; strengthen your hands for the work.

Ruth Had Confidence In Naomi

- Her trust was based on something:
Naomi's example of trustworthiness.
- Ruth 1:16-17
 - Not afraid to go where she led.
 - Not afraid to live as she lived.
 - Not afraid to follow her faith.



Ruth Had Confidence In Naomi

- What if Naomi had been wrong?
 - Matt. 15:14; 1John 4:1-3
 - Ruth would have paid for her carelessness if her trust had been misplaced.
 - Naomi would have paid for betraying it.



Ruth Had Confidence In Naomi

- Ruth's determination to follow Naomi was not something that could not easily be laid aside or passed on to another.
 - Ruth 1:17-18; 3:1-5 - Good followship.
- As a result of Naomi's leadership, Ruth the Moabitess became a part of the lineage of David and an ancestor of Jesus of Nazareth.
 - Ruth 4:16-17; Matt. 1:1-17

Ruth's Trust Was Not Misplaced In Naomi

- Her reputation remained virtuous.
 - Ruth 2:11-12, 3:8-13
- She was correctly instructed in the customs and law.
 - Ruth 2:18-23; 3:18; 4:1-8; Deut. 25:7-9
- Naomi was praised for her leadership.
 - Ruth 4:14-17

Why Didn't I Use A Great Man To Teach About Leading A Non-traditional Family?

- Anyone can find himself/herself in a position of unsought leadership.
- One does not have to be great in man's eyes in order to lead.
- The "Great" do not always make the best leaders.
 - Job 32:7-9

How To Prepare To Be The Leader Of A Non-traditional Family

- Set The Right Example
- Matt. 5:13-16 - *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

How To Prepare To Be The Leader Of A Non-traditional Family

- Set Your Heart On Serving God.
- Joshua 24:14-15 - *“Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

How To Prepare To Be The Leader Of A Non-traditional Family

- Trust God That You Will Succeed.
- 1Cor. 10:13 - *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

How To Prepare To Be The Leader Of A Non-traditional Family

- Pray
- Phil. 4:6-7 - *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*