



**Cultivating an Authentic Loyal Love
July 2 & 3, 2022**

Two types of love:

- 1. Lesser love of convenience – Loving only when it's convenient and benefits me.**
- 2. Loyal love of principle – Loving with no strings attached and no concern for self.**

Legend of the Call week 4: Ruth

Occupation: Widow

Place in life: Moabite Immigrant

Calling: To remain loyal to God and His plan for the future Messiah.

To cultivate an authentic loyal love, I must:

1 Focus on those I love who are hurting worse than I am.

Ruth 1:3-5 (NIV)

Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ruth 1:8-9 (NIV)

Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Ruth 1:16-17 (NIV)

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."

When I focus on the needs of the hurting I:

- **Gain perspective which leads to deep gratitude.**
- **Give genuine compassion and empathy.**
- **Get the urge to actually help in a tangible way.**

2 Develop a reputation as a compassionate caregiver.

Ruth 2:10-13 (NIV)

At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?" Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants."

How to develop a reputation as a caregiver:

- **Remember my name will be synonymous with at least one characteristic, good or bad.**
- **Resist putting every private detail of my life in the public square.**
- **Reject the bullies and the haters.**
- **Rely on God to defend my character.**

Proverbs 22:1 (TPT)

A beautiful reputation is more to be desired than great riches, and to be esteemed by others is more honorable than to own immense investments.

Proverbs 15:1 (TPT)

Respond gently when you are confronted and you'll defuse the rage of another.

3 Give my all to those I love and those I'm called to love, no matter the cost.

Ruth 3:12-13 (NIV)

"Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning."

Ruth 4:13-15 (NIV)

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

Ruth 4:17 (NIV)

The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Revelation 22:16 (NIV)

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

John 1:29 (NLT)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"



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