

## **STATUS** by Ps Mandy Elliott

### Change Agent

- Everything is subject to change
  - Everything that happens to you happens for a reason and is preparation to shape your destiny
  - Change is the preparation... you should be preparing to change when change happens (change is preparation)
  - You need to be clear about what you want - there is nothing more powerful than a changed mind
1. Ruth is a woman without an identity who is called to a destiny, to meet her redeemer. The gentile participant in Israel's (Christ's) kingly line.

God's love reaches out to all nations of the world

It's also a picture of the church of Christ globally that we are called to change the STATUS.

Not only does He incorporate gentiles in his program but employs non Jewish people as instruments in His redemptive program

Ruth's message dissolves messages of exclusivism, whether potentially in Israel at that time or realized in any groups traditions in our time.

2. The book of Ruth speaks about commitment and friendship which underscores the values of family commitment in her daughter servant role to an aging Naomi.

Naomi's preoccupation with Ruth's best interests.

Boaz self effacing endowment of a foreign maid with what will bring her a promising future.

Are we all worthy of examination in this regard.

3. That God through His church proposes a Marriage that dramatically reveals His will that human loss (or any setback, failure or obstacle) always be recoverable and that we work with Him in extending such possibilities to those in need.

Technically speaking no Marriage ever took place but from Boaz' actions spring the spirit of God's redemptive ways.

This is a picture of God's sovereignty.

The foreigner, His people, the Church

### Meaning of Status

- i. Relative social or professional position; standing
- ii. the situation at a particular time during a process



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## CHANGE!

From a family of six to no family

## THINGS GO WRONG

Her father in law dies, 10 years later her husband and brother-in-law die, at the time there is a famine in the land. What does she do with her mother-in-law and sister-in-law or what do they do with her? What do they do?

Orpah goes home; Naomi and the Moabitess daughter-in-law go to Bethlehem

Dramatic change creates a platform for your destiny

## LEAVE MOAB

Naomi and Ruth walk together, a picture of humanity and the spirit.

Returning to a loving God, Naomi has an identity

Finding a loving God, Ruth has no identity

### ❖ WANT vs NEED

She could have opted for the comfort of going back to Moab, but instead made a very significant change. Naomi tried desperately to be rid of Oprah and Ruth - successfully sending Orpah back to Moab but unsuccessful with Ruth.

Isn't it just like the flesh to try to get rid of the one thing it needs. To be led by the spirit and humbly accept that you will need help and company on your journey across the wilderness.

### ❖ Ruth is resolute

## MAKE A DECISION Ruth 1:16

- We all at some time in our lives come to a point where we have to make a decision with regards our walk with God, come back to God. ie Naomi
- Choose who you will serve - Ruth
- In preparation for change
- A pivotal point where destiny begins

**Ruth 1:16 NKJV** But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."

- This talks to me about Ruth's salvation and the adoption of a gentile into the people of God.

Naomi and Ruth now journey together across the harsh wilderness towards their destiny.

It's in the wilderness where you shape yourself for your destiny.

## CALLING RUTH

Into her destiny to walk in her anointing

Ruth had a specific call and anointing on her life. Unaware of it at the time, with one decision she steps into her destiny



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Each of us have a destiny, a call and an anointing on our lives in Christ; this looks different for each of us. It's learning to trust the Holy Spirit to help us get to it by making the pivotal decisions that will get us there, even in the wilderness

### GOING THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

This is where destiny and preparation shape us for change.

What you do in the desert will determine how you come out on the other side.

Every decision we make in life, our attitude towards it and our commitment to what we are doing right now will determine how you come out of the wilderness.

### OUT OF THE WILDERNESS

- Naomi back to restoration with God

I left full but have returned empty....

Bitter – Mara - negative and hurt... God will heal your hurts

Don't complain and cry when you have been hurt, negative feelings and emotions don't do well for us

### A STIR

Ruth 1:19

- God creates a stir as they approach Bethlehem

Our journey is never alone and it is usually with one of equal capacity.

#### ❖ PREPARATION

Whatever happens along the way is purposed for your destiny.

Every decision you make is part of what prepares you for what is to come

Every decision, everyone you meet, whatever you trip over or climb over

- When you get a sense of purpose and choose to walk in the direction you are called. There is a grace to carry you through.

**Romans 8:27-28 NKJV** Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

#### ❖ CHANGE

Choosing to change is not easy, choosing to do God's will over your own (Hebrews 6:9-12)

But God knows what He is doing and to whom much is given much is required and each of us are able to carry and go through that. It's not our place to be worried about anyone else's calling or gift - that would be coveting. When you covet you will never be who you are called to be.

And so God keeps Ruth on this track as she puts herself out there in the fields labouring in the hot



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sun, per chance she stops in this field. God orders your footsteps.

Have you ever wondered how that happened... 'all things work together for my good!'

Boaz is coming...

❖ MEETING BOAZ Ruth 2:5-8

She meets Boaz and sees how he is honoured and well respected.

This kinsman. The relative of Naomi's dead husband Elimelech, by Marriage Ruth's relative.

He is the kinsman Redeemer.

God will order your footsteps. The field she stops to take a rest and drink water in is the field belonging to Boaz. God is waiting for you to pause so He can talk to you. And when she meets him in the field he shows her favour, when he speaks to her.

**Ruth 2:13 GNT** Ruth answered, "You are very kind to me, sir. You have made me feel better by speaking gently to me, even though I am not the equal of one of your servants."

❖ THANKFULNESS AND HONOUR

**Ruth 2:11-12 GNT** Boaz answered "I have heard about everything that you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband died. I know how you left your father and mother and your own country and how you came to live among a people you had never known before. May the Lord reward you for what you have done. May you have a full reward from the Lord God of Israel, to whom you have come for protection!"

Ruth 1:16 Your God will be my God

❖ THE CHURCH

We are one body, when we look at every one in the kingdom, which fields they are working and what God has called them to, all uniquely positioned we can see that God has placed us favourably between the sheaves to glean

Glean from those who go before you, stay within the lines that God has prescribed for you.

There is safety and provision and water there for you

WORTHY

**Ruth 2:13 NLT** "I hope I continue to please you, sir," she replied. "You have comforted me by speaking so kindly to me, even though I am not one of your workers."

❖ GLEAN

**Ruth 2:2 NKJV** So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

BOAZ INSTRUCTION



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## PROTECTION – PROVISION – WATER

# Instruction to Ruth/you

**Ruth 2:9 NLT** See which part of the field they are harvesting, and then follow them. I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly. And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well.”

# Instruction to them for Ruth/ you

**Ruth 2:16 AMP** Also you shall purposely pull out for her some stalks [of grain] from the sheaves and leave them so that she may collect them, and do not rebuke her.”

❖ HERE IT COMES

**Hebrews 6:9-12 NKJV** But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

❖ PREP FOR CHANGE

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? Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

- 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.

- ❖ WASH YOUR FACE
- ❖ CHANGE YOUR GARMENTS
- ❖ LIE DOWN
- ❖ BE QUIET
- ❖ WAIT FOR HIM TO MOVE

Learn to be quiet, find your position in Him...lie at His feet and wait for Him to move and speak to you.

This speaks to us in our walk with God, what we need to be doing as the global church

**Ruth 3:1-3, 6 NKJV** So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.”

❖ SETTLED



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**Ruth 3:18 NKJV** Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

**Philippians 1:6 NKJV** Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

If you are not confident in your position and wish to change your destiny to that which is far more meaningful than the life you are living now, you can start here by walking into the redemption of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 10:10-13 NKJV** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

**Acts 4:12 NKJV** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Lord I believe You are the one who saves, and I ask You to forgive me so that I can enter into a relationship with You. Your word says redemption is in You therefore I come and surrender my life to You. Be my Lord and Saviour. Thank you for accepting my repentance and receiving me into Your kingdom as a child and friend of God.



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