

RUTH 3:18
WAITING UPON GOD!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Ruth chapter 3 as we continue our in-depth study of the book of Ruth.

And here in Ruth chapter 3 we have been looking at four main points that emerge and we have covered three of them.

Remember how this chapter opened up. As Ruth comes home to her mother-in-law, Naomi, after gleaning in the fields of Boaz, and we see that Naomi is preparing Ruth for a wedding with Boaz.

You see, Boaz, by his actions, showed Naomi that he was interested in Ruth.

So Naomi tells her to wash herself, change her clothes and anoint herself. Then she was to go to Boaz and join him, but, as we will see, she does this in an interesting way.

And it is out of that we see these four points.

We first looked at – ***TOTAL SUBMISSION!***

And in Ruth 3:6-9 we saw Ruth lay down at the feet of Boaz, which showed her total submission to him.

Please understand that Ruth, by laying at the feet of Boaz, was not doing something wrong. This was not some kind of sexual advance on her part, not at all.

We have to understand what the culture was like back then. Like I have said, what Ruth was doing was showing her total submission to Boaz.

You see, a servant would lie at their master's feet and be ready for what the master tells them to do.

And what a beautiful picture that is of us surrendering our lives totally to our Master, Jesus Christ!

From there we looked at – ***EARS TO HEAR!***

And in Ruth 3:10-14 we saw Ruth not only listen to the words of Boaz, but she obeyed the words of Boaz!

How important that is for us to not only hear the Word of God but then apply it to our lives.

There are many Christians who know the Word of God, can quote the Word of God, but when it comes to applying that to their lives, they don't!

And James says that kind of faith, if it is not seen in the life of a believer, is an empty faith!

In Exodus 23:22 we are told, **“But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.”** May we listen and obey the Lord!

Then we looked at – ***THE BLESSINGS OF GOD!***

Ruth is going to be blessed by Boaz as she not only hears what he is telling her but also obeying what He is telling her. All that he has is for her and the same is true with our Lord.

And please understand that the blessings of God are not just material things and if that is our concept of God, just material things, then we are in trouble because you are limiting what God is doing in your life.

God has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ! May we not forget that.

This morning, as we finish up this chapter in Ruth, we are going to be looking at the last point – ***WAITING UPON GOD!***

Think about that one for a minute. How many of us have a hard time waiting in traffic, or waiting in line, or waiting for your wife to get ready, I am in so much trouble, or waiting for this and waiting for that? We all do and many times it gets us in trouble!

Before we get to our text, let me share this perspective about being impatient. We are told,

I'm sitting at a traffic light in my neighborhood, waiting for the red light to turn. I'm trying to be relaxed and unhurried about my life. Before I have a chance to respond to the light that has just turned green, the person behind me is already on his horn.

It happens often enough that my wife and I have given this experience a name - gronk.

It is a contraction of green and honk, and it represents the nanosecond of time between the fresh green light in front of us and the angry horn blasting behind us. It is an inflammation of impatience. It is an utter lack of simple kindness. It is chronic and epidemic. And, bottom line, it is unloving.

Maybe this sounds to you like whining. I'm tempted to react: "Hey, gronker! What in the world is so important that my slow reaction time is such an offense to you? Do you have an appointment with the president? Are you trying to get your injured child to the hospital?" (I would understand a good solid gronk in this last case.) Probably not. Instead, that gronk is likely just a habit rooted in the belief that time is money and that hurry, therefore, is always profitable.

If hurry gets in the way of love, does hurry go or does love go?

- Source Unknown

I think that is a good perspective to have. And when it comes to waiting upon God, it is the most important thing we can do because it will affect how we respond to others!

And as we look at this topic of – **WAITING UPON GOD**, I want to focus on three points and my prayer is that as we look at these points, they will help me and they will help you to learn to be patient with the Lord, to wait upon His direction and then act.

The three points we will be looking at are as follows,

SIT STILL!

STAND STILL!

BE STILL!

So with the remainder of our time this morning, let's look at this important topic – **WAITING UPON GOD!** And we will focus on Ruth 3:18.

RUTH 3

VERSE 18

As Ruth tells Naomi all that Boaz has said to her, Naomi knows that Boaz will not rest until the work is completed. For Naomi, she recognized the great love that Boaz had for Ruth, and this woman, Naomi, who had come back home empty, was now full of joy once again as she resided in the House of Bread.

Now let's think about this for a minute as we apply this to the Lord and what He has for us.

You see, our Lord will not rest until His work is completed. Yes, His work in paying for our sins was completed on the cross of Calvary but now the Lord is working in our lives to sanctify us or make us more like Him, to redeem our bodies, to restore this earth to the way it was when He created it and He will not rest until it is finished!

And it is in the Lord where we will find joy, fulfillment, satisfaction, as we rest in our House of Bread, the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ!

And notice what Naomi tells Ruth, to “Sit still . . .”

Do you really think that Ruth would have helped Boaz out if she followed him all around Bethlehem, going here and there just following him all over the place?

Of course not, and the Lord does not need our help.

Here is where we get into trouble many times. We are anxious, we are in a hurry, we think we know what to do, and instead of sitting still and waiting upon the Lord to guide us, we go out and do it on our own, we try to help God out in the situation, and that will never work.

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

. . . If persons are ever to arrive at the rest they are seeking, they must also know when to stop striving and begin waiting. Or to put it another way, they must learn to leave the outcome of their seeking in the hands of another.

- Barry G. Webb, Judges and Ruth – God in Chaos, p. 269

But again, it is hard to sit still and wait upon God. And that is even more true when God promises us something and it is not coming to pass and thus, we must step in and help God out, or so we think.

Let me share this example with you, and there are others in the Scripture. But look at Abraham. God told Abraham, called Abram at that time, that he would give him the land of Canaan, and his descendants forever! (Genesis 13:15)

And Abram tells the Lord that he has no children, that the only heir in his house is his servant, Eliezer of Damascus. (Genesis 15:2)

And in Genesis 15:5 we see the Lord tell Abram this. **“Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’”**

That was a promise of God to Abram and God clearly tells Abram that this land is not only his, but he will have a child and that child will multiply like the stars in heaven! And Abram believed God. That is what we are told.

Now remember when Abram went down to Egypt because of a famine in the land. When he was down there, he picked up a maidservant by the name of Hagar. (Genesis 16:1)

He should not have gone to Egypt, to the world for help and it will be a thorn in his side and his descendants side as well!

And here is the problem for Abram and his wife Sarai, who will be called Sarah. They still had no children and because of that, and in knowing what God had promised them, they came to the logical conclusion that they needed to help God out in this matter. They were not going to sit still!

Listen to what we are told in Genesis 16:2-4, **“So Sarai said to Abram, ‘See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.’ And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. Then Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.”**

Now it is easy for us to speak out against what they did. But keep in mind that Abram is 85 and Sarai is 75 and she was well past the age of childbearing, that is what Paul tells us in Romans 4:19.

Now, what was impossible with man is very possible with God even though Sarai’s womb was dead. But, in their minds, since Sarai couldn’t conceive, she has had no children yet and she is 75 years old, Hagar, their maidservant could and thus, this is what God must mean. No, it wasn’t!

Make no mistake about it, it is always better to wait upon the Lord than to try and help Him out. We just get in the way of what He wants to do many times.

And I think that the creator of heaven and earth can do it without our help, don’t you?

And when He wants to use us as vessels from which He can work through, may we be willing to walk as He leads and not as we want!

Hagar is now pregnant, and Sarai is not happy with the situation and she throws out Hagar and as she flees, the Lord speaks to Hagar and tells her that she will have a son and call his name Ishmael, which means **“God hears.”** Also, she was to return to Sarai.

And through his descendants they will become a great nation and that has come to pass.
Not only that but they will be wild.

Who are these people?

They are the Arab people! And look at the conflict we see today because Abram tried to help God out, the turmoil between the Arabs and the Jews!

We also see this in the son of Isaac, and you are probably familiar with the story. Isaac's wife, Rebekah was pregnant, and she was going to have twins. We are told in Genesis 25:23, **“And the Lord said to her: ‘Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.’”**

The promise was this. Esau, the older son, would serve the younger son, Jacob. That was not the custom, the older got the blessing and the younger served the older. But God told them that the exact opposite was going to take place.

As they grew, Esau was hunter and one day he went out and he came back empty and starving to death. And Jacob, whose name means schemer, tells Esau that he will give him some lentil soup in exchange for his birthright. And Esau did just that.

Well, time goes by and Isaac is getting older, he could hardly see, and he wants Esau to go out and get some game, cook it up and then bring it to him and he would then give him the blessing of the firstborn.

Well, Isaac's wife and Jacob come up with a plan to trick Isaac into thinking Jacob was Esau and it worked beautifully. They put some goat skins on Jacob, Esau was a hairy guy. They put Esau's clothes on Jacob so he would smell like Esau. I guess he had a certain smell to him! And she made some savory stew for Isaac to trick him.

And as Jacob enters deceiving his dad, his dad is surprised he is back so quickly, and Jacob brings God into the picture and he says that God has brought the game to him quickly!

And as Isaac hears all this, smells Jacob, he is not positive it is Esau, but after all this we see that Isaac gives Jacob the blessing and as soon as he leaves the tent of Isaac, Esau walks in wanting the blessing. And they found out what Jacob had done and both of them were upset. Esau was so mad that he wanted to kill Jacob.

Because of that Jacob is sent to his uncle Laban's house until Esau is no longer mad and wanting to kill him. And that short stay lasted some twenty years!

Here is the problem. Instead of sitting still and letting God work this out, Rebekah and Jacob schemed to get something that was going to be his in the first place and in the end, Jacob never saw his mother again. She died when he was away. All because they tried to help God out and it never works like it should!

This was played out in my life several times. When I first got saved the Lord spoke to my heart and told me that one day He was going to bring me up from Chicago to Wisconsin to be a pastor. And I do know that many of you know the story, but I want you to see what the Lord was showing me in regard to sitting still.

The Lord never told me when He was going to do this.

The Lord never told me how He was going to do this.

All He told me was that He was going to do this.

Now I could have moved up to Wisconsin and tried to do this by starting some Bible studies or whatever. I could have tried to help God out on this.

And from a human perspective, He needed some help from me.

You see, one year went by. Then two years. Five years. Eight years went by. Ten years went by and still nothing. And then, some eleven or so years after God spoke to me about doing this, it came to pass.

I had to sit still and wait upon God and then, as the doors opened, I needed to go forward. I truly could have messed things up, but God had a plan, and I can see that His plan was perfect.

This truly was the hand of God. You see, it began with my wife going to a women's retreat in Indiana and she did not want to go because she just got out of the hospital with blood pressure problems and she was feeling really bad. But the Lord put it upon her heart to go, that He had something to show her.

So she went and called me when she got there that she wanted to come home. But I told her to stay and see what the Lord has for her and she did.

She said the retreat was great but there was not that specific thing from the Lord, at least not yet.

After the conference, the speaker asked if anyone had any prayer requests or wanted to share anything with them.

One of the women stood up and said that they needed prayer. Their church needed a pastor as their pastor stepped down and if they would pray for Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc, Wisconsin!

After my wife got up from the floor, not really, but you know what I mean. She went up to the women and said that someone from her church might be interested, she did not tell her that it was me!

So I called the elders and asked if I could come up and teach for four Sunday's and then we can pray about it and see what the Lord was going to do. I knew after the first teaching that this is where God wanted me.

The point I want to bring out here is that if I did not sit still and wait upon God, I would have messed things up.

One more thing to show you the importance of waiting upon God and this just happened a few months back.

At our monthly board meeting I told Steve that as I look at the books, it seems like I am going to have to start working outside the church again, as the church can't support me and continue on.

We talked and Steve mentioned that I should wait and see how things continue to go. And I agreed with that. I did not want to rush into anything but after the first of the year, I would need to seriously look at this.

I also felt that the Lord was telling me the same thing, to sit still.

At the end of the year the Lord took care of it and right now, things are okay and I do not have to look for a job outside the church.

I wonder what would have happened if I did get a job and now God has provided and then, would I quit my job that I just started? That would have been a bad witness as they trained me and now I was leaving.

Do you see the importance of sitting still and allowing God to guide us instead of getting in the way, rushing into something and messing things up!

Naomi told Ruth to – *SIT STILL* and I think God does the same with us. Yes, there are times we need to stop sitting and get moving but there are other times we need to wait upon God and *SIT STILL!*

The next point I want to look at is this – *STAND STILL!*

And we see this played out for us in Exodus 14:13-14, where we are told, “**And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.’**”

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**Moses told the people, Fear not; stand still (firm, confident, undismayed) and see the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians you have seen today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace and remain at rest.**”

Keep in mind what is going on here. The children of Israel have been set free from their bondage in Egypt. And as the Lord leads them, they come to the Red Sea. Nothing too difficult so far.

We are also told that Pharaoh and his men are upset because they let all their slaves go free, the children of Israel. So they go after them and when they hear that they are cornered by the Red Sea, they go after them.

You see, at this point the children of Israel had mountains on either side of them, the Red Sea in front of them, and now the massive army of Egypt coming after them from the back side!

They had absolutely no place to go. It was a disaster, from a human standpoint.

Now let me ask you this. Did Moses, at this point, know how God was going to deliver them?

Absolutely not, all he knew was that God was going to do it, that is faith! And he wants the children of Israel to look to the Lord and to trust in the Lord as he was doing. He wanted to be an example to them to encourage them.

I like this because this is how the Lord works.

First, He tells them to *STOP*.

If you let things cause you to *DESPAIR*, it will cast you down, it will keep you from standing.

If you let things cause you to *FEAR*, it will cause you to retreat.

If you become *IMPATIENT*, it may cause you to jump into the Red Sea before it is parted.

But the Lord tells them through Moses to *STAND STILL* and He will reveal His plan to them!

What is interesting is that Moses tells the children of Israel, “... **‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.’**” Exodus 14:13.

What is the result of standing still here?

That they will see what the Lord will do. This is not something that they came up with, in fact it is foolish when you think about it. They are going to walk through the Red Sea on dry ground! Are you kidding me?

I guess it is impossible for man, but not for God and what a witness this will be to them and future generations of what God can do!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

. . . A. W. Pink has captured what is the meaning of the command, “stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD.”

All attempts at self-help must end. All activities of the flesh must cease. The workings of nature must be subdued. Here is the right attitude of faith in the presence of a trial – “stand still.”

This is impossible to flesh and blood. All who know, in any measure, the restlessness of the human heart under anticipated trial and difficulty, will be able to form some conception of what is involved in standing still.

Nature must be doing something. It will rush hither and thither. It would feign have some hand in the matter. And although it may attempt to justify and sanctify its worthless doings, by bestowing upon them the imposing and popular title of “a legitimate use of means,” yet are they the plain and positive fruits of unbelief, which always shut out God, and sees naught save every dark cloud of its own creation.

Unbelief creates or magnifies difficulties, and then sets us about removing them by our own bustling and fruitless actions, which, in reality, do but raise a dust around us which prevents our seeing God’s salvation. (Gleanings in Exodus, by A. W. Pink).

When in a tenuous position, and we know not what to do, the clear decision is to “stand still.”

Disaster may be approaching from every side. A fever pitch surrounds each thought and unrestrained emotions war against the fettered soul. To “stand still” is now the hardest vocation ever encountered. The shaky situation lends itself to a multitude of alternative maneuvers.

Recommendations from every corner advance themselves as to the next procedure. Prayer and supplication seem to be fruitless. The anxious rush is overpowering, and at the same time completely debilitating.

The flickering faith that remains screams to the inner man, “stand still.” Stand, and having done all to stand, stand with your loins girt about with truth, stand fast in the Lord.

Oh! may God teach us that when all is ambiguous, it is our wisdom and safety to “stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.”

It is when the Lord speaks, and only when He speaks, that we should proceed.

“And the Lord said unto Moses . . . speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward.” (Ex. 14:15).

When we are instructed of the Lord, by His Spirit, and by the word to “stand still, and see His salvation, we can be confident that He will bring victory to pass.

“The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” (vs. 14).

Matthew Poole described verse 14 with wonderful clarity. “Ye shall contribute nothing to the victory, neither by your words nor by your deeds; for this Hebrew word signifies a cessation not only from speech, but from action too.”

Since God has commanded the believer to “stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord,” it is indicative that He is going to fight for him.

The reason for this is because this battle is not the children’s, but the Father of the children. This battle is the Lord’s.

May we never forget that, and may we take that time to *STAND STILL* and see the salvation that the Lord will bring to the various situations we will face in this life!

I know that with all that is going on in this country right now a lot of you are discouraged and even angry. You see no hope in the situation that is before us.

Pharaoh and his army of 600 of the best chariots, with 250,000 soldiers according to Josephus, were closing in on the children of Israel. The Red Sea was in front of them, mountains on either side, and coming up from behind was Pharaoh and the Egyptian army!

In knowing that what hope did they have?

The only hope they had was the Lord and His promise to them!

I want to point you back to the Lord in what we are facing today.

Now I know for some, they feel that was back then and not today because it is different!

No, it is not. God is the same yesterday, today and forever and what He did back then, can't He do the same today?

Of course He can and of course He does and we need to stand still and see the salvation that He will bring to these things. I am not saying that it will work out according to our plan, but it will according to His plan, and He is still working, don't give up, stand still and see the salvation that the Lord will bring!

Also, listen to what God said to Job in Job 37:14, **“Listen to this, O Job; Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.”**

We are all living very busy lives, and we get up and do this and we do that, and the day goes by so quickly.

But what does God tell Job and really, what is He telling us?

He tells us – ***STAND STILL AND CONSIDER THE WONDEROUS WORKS OF GOD!***

And the list of things that God is doing is beyond what we could even imagine.

Have you seen the beautiful sunrise or sunset? You need to stand still and take a look at the beauty that God has placed upon this world!

Have you seen the beautiful spouse or people that God has placed in your life? You need to stand still and take a good look at the beautiful people that God has placed in your life and if you don't think you have any, take a good look at the people around you right now, the family of God. You have a huge family that loves you and God has done this!

Have you seen the beautiful children and grandchildren that God has placed in your life? You need to stand still and thank God for them!

What about wildlife, nature, have you seen the beauty of the bald eagle, the grace of the deer and the list, obviously, can go on and on. You need to stand still and take a good look at what God has created; the beauty of nature that God has brought forth!

What about this church and all that God has done, is doing and will do in this church? Think about it. Some of you have been here longer than I have, over 26 years and you have seen how God has sustained this church. Some of you have not been here that long but you have seen how God has provided this building, the radio station, the tower for the radio station, the prison ministry and so on, have you thanked God for that? You need to stand still and see all that God has done and is doing and will do in this church and praise and thank Him for that.

The problem comes when we are constantly on the move and we don't see all that God has done. We miss it and God is telling us to stand still and take a good look because as you do, you will praise Him!

We have looked at so far – *SIT STILL, STAND STILL*, and we will finish up our study by looking at – *BE STILL*.

Think about this for a minute. What is the opposite of being still?

It is being restless.

And what I mean by that is that restlessness is the state of being unable to rest, either physically or mentally.

And restlessness can be caused by physical conditions such as too much caffeine or by emotional stressors such as anxiety, exhilaration, or apprehension.

In general, Americans are becoming more anxious about their safety, health, finances, politics and relationships. That is what a new online poll from the American Psychiatric Association finds.

Compared to the results of a similar poll a year earlier, 39 percent of adults in the U.S. are more anxious today than they were a year ago.

And we as Christians are not exempt from being anxious.

Now that may shock some of you but think about it. If your focus is on all the things that are happening around you, you are going to be anxious, worried.

But, if you focus on the Lord, if you can *BE STILL* and listen to Him, then that anxiety will be replaced with His peace.

I know, that is hard to believe. If the situation hasn't changed, how can the level of anxiety, of restlessness change?

Because your focus has changed!

In Psalm 46:10 we are told, "**Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!**"

Again, focus is so important, and the object of your focus is also important. Listen again what this Psalm says, **“Be still, and know that I am God . . .”**

In knowing that, it should calm your heart, cause you to relax, to have peace, unless, of course, we put the verse like this, **“Be still, and know that I am God, [but] . . .”**

And when we place that ***“BUT”*** in there in decreases the fact that He is God, and He will see us through anything and everything. It is saying that there are things that are too hard for God to handle!

But, sorry about that, but I want you to understand what this verse is saying. You see, the Hebrew word that is translated, **“Be still”** speaks of this. It means ***“to take your hands off, relax.”***

Let me put this into perspective for you with this. We are told,

The commercial begins with a young girl standing alone in a picturesque meadow. The camera then pans to another part of the field where it shows a gigantic African rhinoceros.

The ominous beast begins a lethal charge towards the girl, whose serene and happy face remains unmoved.

As the rhinoceros gets closer, the words appear on the screen, “Trust is not being afraid.”

A split second before the rhino tramples the helpless child, it stops, and the girl, her smile never wavering, reaches up and pets the animal on its massive horn.

The final words then appear, “even when you are vulnerable.”

- Perfect Illustrations for Every Topic and Occasion

That is the perspective we are to have. ***“Trust is not being afraid, even when you are vulnerable.”***

But why? How can that be? There is so much going on, so much happening in my life and it feels like I am going to be run over by this massive rhinoceros!

Because we are placing our trust in the hands of God and we are letting go and letting Him guide our lives. There is nothing to fear because our heavenly Father is watching out for us! And thus, we can trust in Him, we don't have to be afraid, and yes, we are vulnerable, but God has this, and we need to let Him handle it!

And the key here in Psalm 46:10 is that we are to "**know**" that He is God!

Now this may sound funny, but are there times that we lose sight of God, that we don't know that He is God? And what I mean by that is that the situations we are facing become overwhelming, there is no way out humanly speaking.

And because we can't think of a way out, we assume that God can't help us either.

Thus, can we lose sight of God, that we don't know that He is God?

You bet we can because our focus is wrong and thus, what do we do?

We step in and we try to help God out! And what ends up happening is that things get worse.

Remember that the Hebrew word for, "**Be still**" can be translated like this, "***to take your hands off, relax.***"

That is what we are to do.

And please understand that God is not telling us we are to just sit there and do nothing. There is a time to sit still, stand still, be still and then there is a time to go, to move forward, to do those things that God has called us to do!

Remember in Exodus, as the children of Israel are cornered by the Red Sea. Pharaoh and the Egyptian army are coming after them. They had no place to Go and God spoke to Moses that He would take care of the situation.

Remember what we read in Exodus 14:13-14, **“And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.’”**

And that is great, they needed to stand still and see the salvation that the Lord will bring to this situation.

But they needed to walk by faith as well and in Exodus 14:15-18 we are told, **“And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.’”**

God was going to deliver them, but they needed to walk by faith as well, as I have said. And through all of this, the Egyptians will see that God is God and there is none like Him!

Through what?

Through the fact that God was going to part the Red Sea!

Through the fact that the children of Israel were going to walk by faith through the Red Sea.

Through the fact that God was going to destroy Pharaoh and the entire Egyptian army in the Red Sea.

And God is doing the same with us. He will deliver us and then there are those times we need to step forward and walk by faith. And as we do people will see the hand of God moving and that He is God! And it will encourage us and strengthen our faith as well!

And here's the thing. Like Ruth, are you willing to put yourself in the hands of God, sitting at His feet, letting Him have your life? If you are, then you are truly trusting in Him!

Sit still, stand still, be still and let the Lord have His way and see what He will do in you and through you as you do!

And I do understand that we are so busy, but sometimes we are so busy we miss what God is doing, who He wants to minister to. Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

Take a moment and think about your life. Think about your daily grind, your routine, the way you take the subway to work every morning.

Think about the hundreds of people you pass, brush shoulders with, even push past.

Think about the way you interact with people. It's weird to think, but you interact with hundreds of people on a daily basis and don't even realize it.

These interactions are small moments - tiny, seemingly insignificant seconds of your life.

They have no weight to them, no purpose, no real meaning, yet they have significant power. These small moments all add up to the bigger sum of your life, creating opportunities and experiences that are missed or abused by the hurried and impatient.

What if you took five minutes to slow down and appreciate the people and the interactions around you? Took a moment to notice the sorrow on one woman's face, or the pain in that man's eyes sitting next to you on the subway?

What could your tiny interaction mean to them? We spend our lives waiting for the next big event to happen in our lives, the next destination, usually unaware of the moments being created around us.

For one cab driver, his decision to take a moment to slow down changed everything for one woman.

This is a story of patience and brotherhood; of mankind. It's a story of small, random acts of kindness that have the power to affect people on a big scale.

A NYC Taxi driver wrote:

I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I honked again.

Since this was going to be my last ride of my shift I thought about just driving away, but instead I put the car in park and walked up to the door and knocked. "Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie.

By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets.

There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

“Would you carry my bag out to the car?” she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman.

She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb.

She kept thanking me for my kindness. “It’s nothing”, I told her. “I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated.”

“Oh, you’re such a good boy, she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, “Could you drive through downtown?”

“It’s not the shortest way,” I answered quickly.

“Oh, I don’t mind,” she said. “I’m in no hurry. I’m on my way to a hospice.”

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. “I don’t have any family left,” she continued in a soft voice. “The doctor says I don’t have very long.”

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.

“What route would you like me to take?” I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator.

We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she’d ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, “I’m tired. Let’s go now.”

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico.

Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous [considerate] and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

“How much do I owe you?” She asked, reaching into her purse.

“Nothing,” I said

“You have to make a living,” she answered.

“There are other passengers,” I responded.

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly.

“You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,” she said. “Thank you.”

I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light.

Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought.

For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk.

What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments.

But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

Maybe you are thinking, “*What in the world does this have to do with waiting upon God?*”

I think that there are not accidents with God, but He is working in us to work through us and we must,

SIT STILL!

STAND STILL!

BE STILL!

And listen to what God is saying to us. We must not only listen but obey.

I have no idea if this man was a Christian, but what he did was what God calls us to do. Be His representative here on this earth and let people see Jesus in us.

But we can be so busy that we don't hear what He is saying, we don't see the people He has placed before us, and we don't do those things that He wants us to do.

But why?

Many times we tend to look at things like the crossing of the Red Sea and other big events as being so important, and we miss out in what we call the small things that God is doing in us and through us.

Do you think, for this woman, that this was a small thing?

Absolutely not. The kindness of this taxi driver blessed her because he took the time to listen to what she was saying and then acted upon it.

May we do the same with our Lord. May we take that time and listen to what He is telling us. May we not get ahead of Him and try to help Him out. And when He calls us to take those steps of faith, may we go forward!

For both Naomi and Ruth, they believed that Boaz would accomplish what he said he would do and in knowing that they both walked by faith.

What about us?

Do we believe all that the Lord has spoken to us?

Do we believe that He can accomplish in us all that He has promised us?

Remember what Paul said in Ephesians 3:20-21, **“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”**

Since He is able to do it, may we trust in Him and walk by faith. May we take the time to sit at His feet and rest in Him. May we take the time to stand still instead of rushing ahead of Him. And may we be still and see what He can do in us and through us for His glory!