

Saturday & Sunday, February 17 & 18, 2018 - "Risk - Week 1 - Introduction: A Downward Spiral" - Gerald Coleman

Key Passages: Ruth 1:1-14, Judges 2:10, Job 23:8-10

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Risk: Living courageously in times of uncertainty
 - We need courage
 - Prominent command in the Bible = Fear not
 - We are asking the questions, Who is this woman?
- Context of Ruth
 - Through the eyes of Naomi in the "Days when the Judges ruled" (Judges 2:10)
 - I time when the people did not know the Lord and forgot all he had done
 - We can't become "chronological snobs" We can be like this too
 - The culture of the day is one that flip-flops and changes with the truth of the moment
 - There is a famine in Judah so people moved to Moab (where there was food)
 - Naomi's husband Elimilech and two sons, who took Moabite wives, die
 - Now Naomi has no one to provide for her and she is living in a foreign land with two Moabites daughters-in-law
- Genealogy of Jesus: Matthew 1
 - Ruth is listed (one of the Moabite daughters-in-law)
 - She wasn't supposed to be taken as a wife (Moabites were prohibited in the assembly of God)
 - Her great grandson was King David
- Naomi is left only with her Daughters-in-law (Orpah and Ruth)
 - Returns to the land of Judah but tells here daughters-in-law to go home
 - Naomi was essentially saying, "I don't have anything so GO"
 - **We need courage when things don't go as we planned**
 - Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth can't see a way out
 - **We need courage to move towards God even when we can't see him**
 - Naomi heard God was moving and went where he was
- Naomi is sometimes viewed as the female Job
 - Job 23:8-10
 - We may have lost God but he knows exactly where we are
 - God is heating us up and refining us like Gold
 - God doesn't bring us this far and then leave us
 - God has the eternal in mind (the big picture) as well as our individual stories/situations

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What is an area or situation in your life where you need courage?
2. Has there been a season where you lost track of who God was and forgot what he had done? What did he teach you in that season?
3. When was a time when things didn't go as planned for you? How did you see God moving in the midst of it or after that fact?
4. How his God calling you to move towards him in your current situation and circumstance?
5. Think of a time when God was refined you like gold, how has God used that in your life?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Genesis 9:8-17 Tues: Psalm 25:1-10 Wed: 1 Peter 3:18-22 Thurs: Mark 1:9-15 Fri: Hebrews 10:4-10