



## MORE PASSION

Pleasing God more means getting fired up  
about what really matters

### SUMMARY

We have become a very goal-oriented society, and, while that isn't a bad thing, we often fail to make the greatest purpose our greatest pursuit. With a myriad of options and opportunities, it is so easy for us to get distracted by and begin to drift towards things that aren't necessarily bad things, but they interfere with or take the place of what should be our greatest desire – to please God. This year, let's determine that our life is going to abound with and increase in those things that our Heavenly Father takes great delight in.

### REVIEW

We began this series by establishing the theme for our church this year: **MORE AND MORE - DETERMINED TO PLEASE THE LORD MORE IN 2024.**

We're considering some key elements that need to be in our life if we are going to please God more.

The first element is **MORE TRUST**. Pleasing God more begins with trusting God most.

The second element is **MORE DISCERNMENT**. Pleasing God more means living right in a world that is wrong.

The third element is **MORE OBEDIENCE**. Pleasing God more means obeying God first.

The fourth element is **MORE FEAR**. Pleasing God more means loving God most.

The fifth element is **MORE WORSHIP**. Pleasing God more means honoring God first.

The sixth element is **MORE CONSISTENCY**. Pleasing God more means staying faithful through it all.

The seventh element is **MORE COURAGE**. Pleasing God more means stepping up when no one else will.

Last week, we found that the eighth element is **MORE HOPE**. Our key statement was this: **PLEASING GOD MORE MEANS BELIEVING GOD CAN WHEN I KNOW THAT I CAN'T.**

We looked at the life of Ruth and we began by considering three powerful truths:

- (1) God can do **MIRACULOUS** things in very **DIFFICULT** and even **DIRE** situations.
- (2) God can bring about **MARVELOUS** things through **MAJOR MISTAKES**.
- (3) God can do **MIGHTY** things in and through the lives of those who are humble, those who are faithful, and those who are willing.

We then found that those three powerful truths produce hope which in turn provides us with what we need to move forward.

- (1) Hope provides us with the **PASSION** to **WANT WHAT IS RIGHT**
- (2) Hope provides us with the **PERSEVERANCE** to **WORK**
- (3) Hope provides us with the **PATIENCE** to **WAIT FOR GOD'S PLAN**.

## **MESSAGE**

The book of Ruth is a powerful book, not just because of the **PRINCIPLE** that it **UNVEILS** (the Kinsmen Redeemer) and the **PICTURE** that it **UNCOVERS** (Jesus, the Son of God, coming into this world to be our Redeemer), but because of the **PROCESS** that it **UNFOLDS**.

Up to this point in the narrative of Scripture, God has **CALLED** His people (Abraham), God has **DELIVERED** His people (Moses), and God has **BROUGHT** His people into the land of Canaan (Joshua), but things weren't going well (the book of Judges). God then paints a picture of hope in the book and through the life of Ruth that would unfold through a particular process.

The nation of Israel would continue to wander away from God. This is pictured in the first chapter of the book of Ruth as Elimelech took Naomi and his family away from Bethlehem and to Moab.

As the nation of Israel continued to distance themselves from God and live disobedient lives, they would join themselves to the foreign people around them which God had commanded them not to do. It's amazing and scary how far sin will take a person. This is also pictured in the first chapter of Ruth as the sons of Elimelech and Naomi marry Moabitess women.

The nation of Israel would then split into two kingdoms both of which would come to an end. We also find this in Ruth chapter 1 in the sons of Naomi.

The northern kingdom of Israel would "waste away to nothing," which is what the name of Naomi's oldest son, Chilion, means. It's interesting to note that Chilion married Orpah whose name means "back of the neck," which is exactly what the northern kingdom did - they turned their back on back and they never went back.

The southern kingdom of Judah, though they demonstrated moments of strength, continually grew "weaker and weaker," which is what the name Mahlon means ("Man of weakness"). It's interesting to note that Mahlon married Ruth who for a period of time remained in Moab before returning to Bethlehem with Naomi, which is exactly what would happen to the southern kingdom of Judah as they were allowed to return to their land with the help of a Gentile (King Cyrus).

When Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem, they found grace in the eyes of the Lord Who had put everything in place that was needed for the redemption of Ruth (a Gentile – descendent of Lot) and the redemption of Naomi (a Jew), which is exactly what Jesus accomplished through His death on the cross of Calvary.

The book of Ruth ends with the arrival of the king (David) that would reign in Jerusalem, which ultimately is a picture of the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ, the descendent of David, who will rule and reign from Jerusalem.

Long story short, in the book of Ruth we find that when everything is bad and when everything is **WRONG** and **FALLING APART**, God has a wonderful plan that He will accomplish through the lives of those who believe in Him and who want His will more than anything else.

- (1) Ruth chose to **LOVE GOD** and to **LIVE FOR GOD**.
- (2) Ruth chose to be **HELPFUL** and to **WORK HARD**.
- (3) Ruth chose to be **LOYAL** and **OBEDIENT**.
- (4) Ruth chose to be **KIND** and **GENEROUS**.

And I can't help but think that she passed those traits on to the next generation because we find those same things in the life of her great-grandson, King David.

When it comes to the life of David, there is simply too much throughout Scripture for us to consider every aspect of his life, and yet, what we find is that God has provided us a perfect summary of David's life.

Acts 13:16-23 says, *"Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience. The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it. And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness. And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot. And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus."*

If you're in the habit of marking things in the Word of God, I'd like to draw your attention back to verse 22 where the Bible says, *"...I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will."*

For a few moments, I'd like to consider this thought: **MORE PASSION - PLEASING GOD  
MORE MEANS GETTING FIRED UP ABOUT WHAT REALLY MATTERS.**

When we think about the life of David, there's a lot that comes to mind:

He knew how to keep and protect sheep, he knew how to play the harp to lift the spirit of those around him, and he knew how to wield a sword and protect those around him.

He was anointed to be the King of Israel after King Saul but he had to wait a significant length of time and he had to endure some incredible hardships before that became a reality in his life.

He knew what it was like to be thought of poorly by those that he loved, to be misjudged by those who didn't really know him, and to be betrayed by those that he trusted.

He knew what it was like to be victorious in battle, to be blessed because of his obedience, and to carry huge burdens because of his own sins.

Passage after passage, the Bible tells us so much about the life of David, and yet, God boils the entire life of David down to one thing – David was passionate. And then, God takes it a little farther to tell us that David was passionate about two things: (1) he was passionate about knowing Who God is and (2) he was passionate about doing what God wanted. In other words, David got fired up about the things that really mattered. Was he a perfect man? No, but he was a passionate man.

1 Kings 15:5 says it this way: *“Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.”*

When we move forward from the book of Ruth, we make our way to the book of Psalms where we find that a large majority of them were penned by David, and they give us a deeper look into and understanding of the heart of David.

1) He was passionate about **KNOWING AS MUCH AS HE COULD ABOUT GOD**

*Psalm 19:7-11 says, “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”*

It has correctly been said that if you want to learn Who God really is than read the Psalms. The reality is that you can’t know God without knowing the Word of God.

2) He was passionate about **BEING AS CLOSE TO GOD AS HE COULD BE**

*Psalm 27:4 says, “One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.”*

*Psalm 27:8 says, “When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.”*

The house of God was where the presence of God rested, and that’s where David wanted to be – in the presence of the Lord. It was there that he found strength to stand up for what was right, and it was there that he found safety for all that was wrong.

3) He was passionate about **PRAYING TO GOD**

*Psalm 55:16-17 says, “As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.”*

David’s life was one of tests, one of trouble, and one of great trials, but it was also one where David learned to take those struggles to God in prayer. He sought help for his needs, and he asked for wisdom and understanding in, through, and about his needs.

4) He was passionate about **GIVING GOD PRAISE**

Psalm 9:1-2 says, *"I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High."*

Psalm 28:7 says, *"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."*

Psalm 34:1 says, *"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."*

David wasn't ashamed to sing and to shout praise to God, and neither should we. God is good and the world needs to know just how good God has been to us so that they can understand how good God will be to them.

5) He was passionate about **FULFILING HIS PART OF GOD'S PLAN**

Cal Evans said, "Don't be satisfied with just being saved. Let's make our lives count for the glory of God."