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Scrip.: Ruth 2:8-13

Theme.: Respect for loyalty.

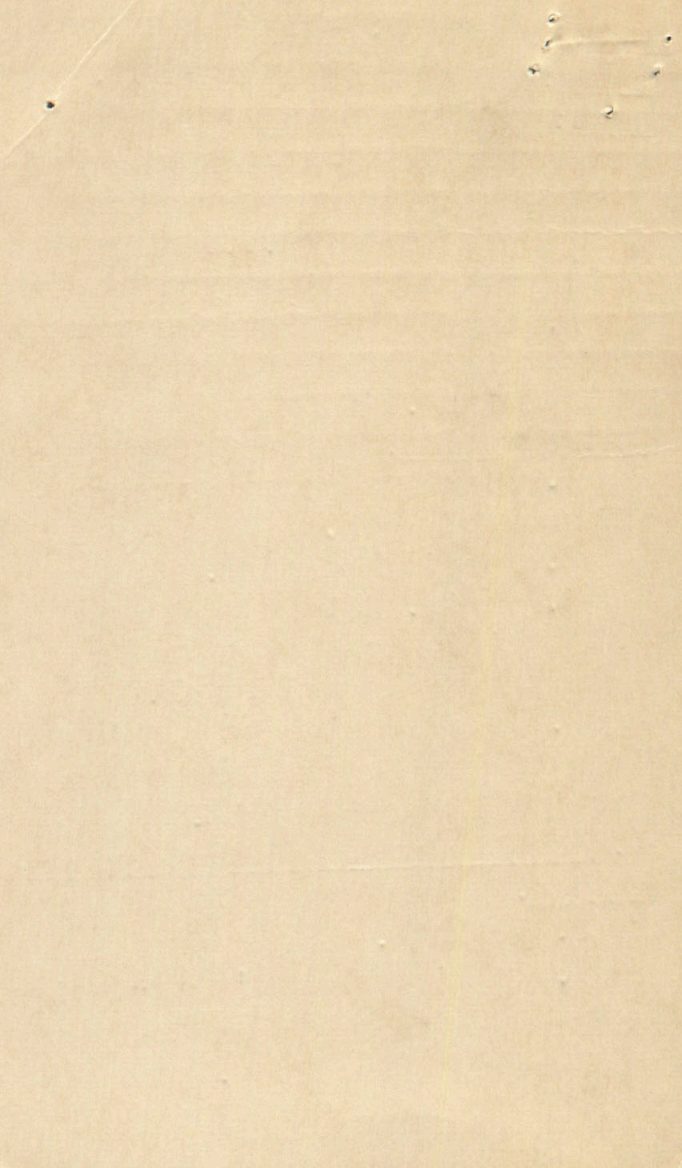
Text.: All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me....and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.

Introduction.

1. Introduction & summary of Book of Ruth.
2. Reading of text.
3. Scrip. & text point to esteem in which God & humans hold those who are loyal.
4. Here we wish to examine the idea of loyalty and the esteem received because of it.

I. Loyalty to loved ones brings esteem.

1. In Ruth.
2. In Victor Hugo's tragedies, mother sheltering young baby girl next to her body.



3. Loved ones are not always kin folks.

a. David & Jonathan.

b. Mr. W.

III Loyalty to worthy purposes earns esteem.

1. Old Testament considered sacred by Christians because it emphasizes loyalty to God.

a. Loyalty to God is still man's greatest cause.

2. Second to loyalty to God is loyalty to country.

a. Government is the agency of protection.

b. Government is the country and the country is the government.

c. Thus, when danger threatens us we must support government, be loyal to country.

d. Service in the military thus a token of loyalty to a great cause.

3. Many other great causes to which loyalty is due.



III. To desire the respect of others and of God is a natural and commendable strong motive for action.

1. Acocker spaniel pup.

a. A social animal.

b. Needs, too, master's approval, more important than of own kind.

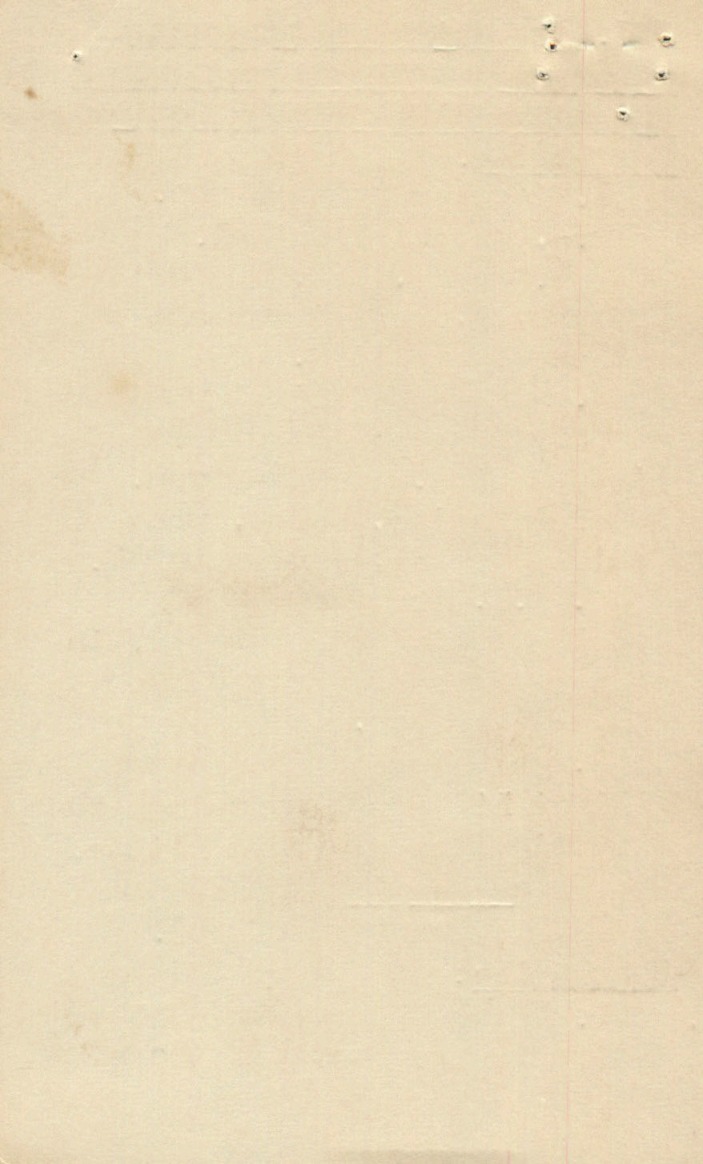
2. Man as an animal wants company & esteem of others of his own kind. A God-given, natural desire. Also, wants God's approval, also natural.

3. O.T. prophets urged people to live righteously, in order to earn rewards of God & live in peace.

4. Jesus urged people to follow ~~his~~ his moral teachings that they might be rewarded (list). He was commending THE DESIRE TO HAVE THE esteem of God.

Conclusion:

1. Natural & commendable to desire the respect of others and of God.



2. Safe way of reward is loyalty to loved ones & to worthy causes.

3. Loyalty to great causes as necessary as to people.

4. May God help us to be loyal to Him.

5. Such loyalty will make us better.

6. As Boaz said to Ruth.. "..."

