

# Orpah Kissed, But Ruth Clung

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**Two things in view: Valentine's Day & Black History Month  
Background**

## **1. Ruth Clung**

**Ruth 1:14-17 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.**

**[15] "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."**

**[16] But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. [17] Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."**

**Ruth clinging—covenant--created the LZ for God's work.**

## **Orpah Kissed, But Ruth Clung!**

## **2. Time of Total Devastation: Naomi**

**Ruth 1:20-21 NIV**

**[20] "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. [21] I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."**

## “Empty” & Bitter [Mara] - change name

### 3. Ruth

Serves, Works, Obeys, Walks in the ways of her new God  
Blessing Falls on her  
Her covenant, her clinging, became the LZ for Blessing

### 4. Boaz

Ruth 2:10-12 NIV

“ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me---a foreigner? ” [11] Boaz replied, “I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband---how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. [12] May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

### 5. The Blessing

Ruth 4:13-17 “So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. [14] The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! [15] He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.” [16] Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. [17] The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.”

- Married – Pregnant – Esteemed – Wealthy
- Grandfather of David

## **Orpah Kissed, But Ruth Clung!**

### **6. Orpah????**

Left Naomi  
Worshipped Moabite God—Chemosh  
Human sacrifice  
Mother of Goliath\*  
A Tale of Two Women

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### **7. The Impartation**

It was rehearsed down through the generations  
Was supposed to impart a passion for the nations  
When Israel did not remember, it did not fulfill its destiny  
It ignored the nations God had called them to.  
Made God furious.  
Jesus clearing the Temple (John 2)

## **Tell The Story! Give the Impartation!**

### Man who carried the Cross

Mark 15:21 NIV

[21] A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and

they forced him to carry the cross.

### Black Leader at Antioch

Acts 13:1 NIV

[1] Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

### Church Fathers

From Africa: Origin, Tertullian, Athanasius, Augustine  
Greatest library at Alexandria, sophisticated Christian civilization

### First Black Americans

Not Slaves but indentured servants.  
Pedro, Isabella, and Antoney  
Earned freedom  
Became wealthy

### Mattias de Souza

Public officeholder in 1641

### Crispus Attucks

First man to die in the American Revolution

### John Mercer Langston

The first black man to become a lawyer--in Ohio in 1854

### Judy Reed

First woman patent holder -- 1884

### Jack Johnson

First African-American man to hold the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908—until 1915.

### George Washington Carver

Developed 300 derivative products from peanuts.

Dr. Mae Jemison

First Black woman to go into space in 1992.

If you...

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Pacemaker?            | Dr. Otis Boykin      |
| Treated for Bacteria? | Dr. Emmett Chappelle |
| Blood Transfusion?    | Dr. Charles Dew      |
| Steroids?             | Dr. Percy Julian     |
| Open Heart Surgery?   | Daniel Hale Williams |

I haven't mentioned the famous ones

Martin Luther & Coretta Scott King  
W.E. B. DuBois  
Booker T. Washington  
Shirley Chisholm  
Tuskegee Airman  
Jackie Robinson  
Thurgood Marshall  
Colin Powell  
Barack Obama

\*\*\*I could go on. My Favorite? First Black owner of a John Deere Dealership -- J. C. Watts

You've got to tell them!!!

\*From the Talmud (JewishEncyclopedia.com) “Goliath was of ignoble birth. His mother is said to have been Orpah (הרפה = ערפה: II Sam. xxi. 16; Yalk. ii. 125), who, after making a pretense of accompanying Ruth, her mother-in-law, and walking with her forty paces, had left her and had led a very profligate life, so that Goliath, her son, was of uncertain paternity (Midr. Ruth i. 14, where the ketib מוערות (I Sam. xvii. 23) is read מומאה ערות; comp. Yalk. ii. 126, 601). She bore besides Goliath three other giants (Tan., Wayiggash, 8).”