

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

Feburary 11, 2024

Selfless

A young man and a young woman had pledged to each other and were looking forward to a near wedding day when the young man was suddenly called to service. From the warfare field, letters regularly came and went, and love shone brightly in all of them. Then, letters from the young man abruptly ceased. A few weeks passed, and a letter came in a strange handwriting. In it, the young woman read:



"There has been another battle. I have lost both my arms. I asked my comrade to write this for me and to tell you that I release you from our troth, for now, I will not be able to work and support you."

That letter was never answered. By the next train, the young woman journeyed southward. She left the train and went directly to the hospital. Inquiring about the location of the young man's cot, she quietly approached and suddenly flung herself down by the side of his cot with the passionate words, "I will never give you up. These hands of mine will work for you. We will live our life of love together." (S. E. DuBois, in Gospel Herald Knight's Master Book of New Illustrations)

Love at its best is selfless. It is the true nature of love (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8) that causes Christ to die a brutal death for people who did not desire Him (Romans 3:11) or deserve His love (Ephesians 2:1-10). Christ's selflessness led to love being manifested at its very best (John 15:13; "Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for a friend."). When this kind of love is hard to express, it is best displayed by selfless acts of love.

A class of little girls was learning to spell. They spelled several small words, such as pig, cat, dog, cow, and amused themselves by imitating the sounds that these animals make. Then, little Mary was asked to spell love. She didn't stop to give the letters, but ran, threw her arms around the teacher's neck, and kissed her on the cheek. "We spell love that way at our house," she said. The girls laughed, but the teacher said, "That is a beautiful way, but do you know another way to spell love?" "Oh, yes," cried Mary, "I spell love this way," and she began to put the books in order on her teacher's desk. "I spell love by helping everybody when they need me." (from Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

"Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised." (Song 8:7; NASU)

UPCOMING Events

College Student Retreat
MARCH 1ST - 3RD
FREE 3-DAY RETREAT
SPIRITUAL GROWTH | FELLOWSHIP
REGISTER AT <https://bit.ly/LWFCStudentRetreat>

COLLEGE STUDENT RETREAT—MAR.1ST-3RD
Attention College Students, a special 3 day retreat for you is coming up March 1-3, 2024. The cost is \$40. We will meet at the church on Friday, March 1st at 2:00 p.m. and drive together to the retreat space. Register on the events page of the website and for more information contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org

IS IT ON THE LIST?
AN SINGLES & MARRIED COUPLES
JOIN US FOR THE SEQUEL OF CUFFING SEASON
Friday February 9th
7pm in Legacy
REGISTER AT <https://bit.ly/LWFCItOnTheList>
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KERON BROWN OR RASHAUD HUDSON AT KERON.BROWN@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG

IS IT ON THE LIST? FRIDAY FEB. 9 TH 7PM
Join the Devoted Singles Ministry for the sequel to Cuffing Season. Married couples and singles are welcome to attend. You don't want to miss this thought-provoking open discussion on dating, marriage, and relationships. Register today and for more information contact **Keron Brown** or **Rashaud Hudson** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org

Bible Study
The Book of Revelation
EVERY TUESDAY AT 12 PM & 7 PM
STARTING BACK TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024
REVIEW YOUR REVELATION BIBLE STUDY NOTES HERE AT <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes> or Scan QR Code
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CHURCH AT (202) 260-7402

REVELATION BIBLE STUDY— EVERY TUESDAY
Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Review your Revelation Bible Study notes at <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes>

See you there to continue our deep dive into the book of Revelation. For more information call the church at **(281) 260-7402**.

Good Love Is In The Air! Good Love Is Everywhere!
Calling all fathers & daughters, mothers & sons, DRESS UP & join us for an evening of LOVE!
Friday, February 16, 2024
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Dancing, Free Food, and Door Prizes
Living Word Fellowship Church, Legacy Theatre
1000 W. 100th Street, Houston, TX 77048
Call, aka info page or Visit <https://www.lwfcwca.com/loveevent> to Register

ABC/LWCA LOVE EVENT—Feb. 16th 6-8 PM
Calling all fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, join us for the Free ABC/LWCA Love event Friday, February 16, 2024 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Register on the events page of our website and get ready to have some fun and fellowship with your amazing children. For more information contact **Sylvia Edwards** at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org

BLACK HISTORY Month CELEBRATION
CELEBRATING BLACK AMERICAN EXPERIENCES THROUGH ART, MUSIC, & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES
SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 24TH AT 11AM
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JACQUELYN JORDAN AT jacjordan@att.net

SILVER STARS BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION
Living Word family, all are welcome to join us for the Silver Stars Ministry annual Black History Celebration on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Come learn, have fun, fellowship, and honor those that have come before us. For more information contact **Jacqueline Jordan** at jacjordan@att.net



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"A Love Story"
Ruth 2:17-23

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

Benediction

LWFC KIDZ

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
6:30 PM

A Love Story
Ruth 2:17-23

A. It’s Sacrificial (vs. 17-18):

- 1. Because Ruth was a widow, she was able to pick up the stalks of grain that were required by law to be left behind for widows. With no possible job and no husband, the timing of the harvest was perfect and totally needed to survive. Ruth, every day and all day, did this with no plans to stop until the season had come to an end. She seems to have only eaten one meal per day.
- 2. It is powerfully interesting to see how God was putting together His handy work because of Ruth's character. Her love for her mother-in-law led her to the right field of a wealthy landowner with a large enough crop for Ruth to have enough food for herself and her mother-in-law.
- 3. Ruth’s love for Naomi energizes her to work beyond everyone’s expectations continuously.

B. It’s Loyal (vs. 18-19):

- 1. Ruth came directly to Naomi. This shows how purposeful she was. Once she was with Naomi, Naomi clearly understood what Ruth had accomplished. As a Jewish woman, Naomi fully comprehended what it must have taken to acquire such a large amount of barley in one day.
- 2. Namoi was so amazed by the amount of barley collected that she viewed what Ruth did as going beyond what most widows typically collect and therefore characterized Ruth as laboring (toiling) out of an ethical obligation to please her.
- 3. Namoi heard all that Boaz did to help Ruth, so she immediately took things to the next level by sharing her desire that Boaz become more acquainted with Ruth to the point that he becomes completely aware of who she is.
- 4. Naomi wants Ruth to experience God's favor, so Boaz engages with her so that she prospers and is happy.
- 5. Ruth explained that Boaz was the man who took notice of her and made sure she worked closer to his maidens than she related to the other widows. This means that Ruth became one of his workers, which caused her to gain more than was provided to widows.
- 6. True love is shared loyalty, and this blend nurtures a relationship to be life-changing and powerful in God's sight.

C. It’s Refreshing (vs. 20-23):

- 1. Naomi was totally engaged in what Ruth reported and kept speaking to her daughter-in-law to learn about all that had happened.
- 2. No matter how awful Naomi and Ruth’s life circumstances may have seemed, the fact that Ruth went to Boaz’s field and experienced his kindness in the manner in which she did now makes it evident to Naomi that the Lord is truly steadfast and generous in affectionately loving them during the worst time of their lives.
- 3. Naomi apparently knew of Boaz, but God’s loving act caused Naomi to engage Ruth with Boaz. It was not Naomi’s strategic plan; it was all based on God’s providential love.
- 4. Ruth agrees with Naomi and explains that Boaz's actions demonstrate his loyalty to her by having her remain like glue to his servants rather than among the widows. He protected her because he knew she was a Moabitess.
- 5. Naomi told Ruth that it would be practical for her to remain with Boaz’s maids. It would also be more pleasant for her if she did because of the uncertainty of what might happen if she strayed into someone else’s field, which may not be kind to a Moabitess.
- 6. The entire time Ruth worked very close to Boaz and his maids, she remained permanently with Naomi, which means that even though she knew Boaz had an interest in her, she kept herself from being involved with him. Ruth held the relationship a working relationship until the end of the harvest.
- 7. True love offers hope for everyone: hope for Boaz to find a wife, hope for Ruth to find a husband, hope for Naomi to restore all her lost family, and hope for mankind to see Jesus.
- 8. Genuine love is empowered by God (1 John 4:7-14) and blesses all those involved.

LIVING WORD
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

VISIT OUR BLACK HISTORY MONTH DISPLAYS IN THE FOYER &
CHILDREN'S WING EVERY TUESDAY AND SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY

VOTE

VOTE



ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024 7 AM - 7 PM

Early Vote Centers will be open from
Tuesday, February 20th - Friday, March 1st
Mon. - Sat. (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.) & Sun. 12 noon – 7 p.m.

We Congratulate and Support our
very own Michelle Bonton
on her run for Senate!

Find Your Voting Center at:

<https://www.harrisvotes.com>




PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Tony Hall & family, Brandon Miller & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, Melba Robinson & family, Neemon Holcomb & family, the family of Bernadette Pickney, Lucretia Lewis & family, Oralee Fields / Mary Ngwazini and their families, the family of Charles Hall, nd the family of Dorothy Price.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, and Patrina Johnson.

A Love Story

Ruth 2:17-23

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