



How did I end up Here?

Scripture References: [Ruth 4:17](#)

INTRO: Have you ever heard “Pull yourself up by your bootstraps”? As kids growing up in SW Oklahoma it was a common saying, a sort of “code of the West” if you will. A typical pair of cowboy boots has straps at the top that are not there just for decoration in many cases. You can grab a hold of them and more readily facilitate getting into your boots. While this phrase is commonly associated with improving your situation by your own efforts, we use the phrase more in the realm of reality, that is, that when God points you or moves you to follow His leadership, then He expects you to get on with the task at hand because He is able and therefore you are able as a result to get the job done.

With that in mind and a pair of boots at your disposal the lesson How did I end up Here? unfolds.

Anyone who has spent time training a roping horse, a cutting horse, or a barrel horse has learned that they are wasting their time if they don't have a responsive animal. When you get a horse for competition, you look for particular breeding that gives the animal the ability to perform in the arena. You might find it shocking to hear me say that the same thing is somewhat true with people, that is, that our DNA plays a role in what our capabilities are in life. For example, I am a good technical thinker and that makes me a good engineer, but I cannot write poetry, and you do NOT want to hear me sing! In summary, I can either use my DNA & train to be successful for the Lord or choose not to. It's up to me.

When you think about King David: What was it that made him a man of character? He was raised to work hard and be responsible. He was concerned about others and he loved God. His father, Jesse, had a lot to do with instilling his character; but did Jesse have some help in raising David? He sure did! His grandpa Obed had some influence in David's life. You can also go back to his great grandparents, Ruth and Boaz. We typically don't think about anyone farther back than our grandparents having influence in our lives, but they do. Then you must choose what do with the influences that are a part of your life.

Let me tell you the story of Ruth. This book in the Bible is only four pages long, but has a lot to do with how the nation of Israel became a great nation. This book can also help us in our lives today if we will listen and learn.

Read [Ruth 4: 17 \(King James Version\)](#) *17And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.*

How did I wind up here?

- Elimelech took his family out of God's place, Bethlehem-Judah, and went to the world, Moab. While he was in Moab, he died and later his sons also died.
- Naomi, his widow, was left in a really big mess. She is in a foreign land with no way to earn a living and she has two daughters-in-law living with her.
- Naomi knew that her husband had taken them out of God's will. ([Ruth 1:13](#)) *13Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.*
- While you are growing up, you do not have full control over where you live, where you go to school, or where you go to church. Your parents have that responsibility. Most parents do the best they know how to raise you right. They want you and the whole family in the best situation possible.

- It is not always easy to see where God wants you; you need to spend time in Bible study & prayer.
- Some people make decisions based on high paying jobs or living near relatives instead of seeking God's will.
- If God wants you to live near relatives or make a lot of money, that's fine; just make sure you are doing what God wants.
- You do not have control of where you live today however, in time that responsibility will come to you. Will you just say "that's just the way I was raised & there is nothing I can do about it"? Or will you pray and seek to get the mind of God?
- Naomi didn't accept a life in Moab that was out of God's will. As soon as she had the power and responsibility, she did something about it.

Where should I be?

- After her husband and sons died, Naomi told her two daughters-in-law that they were free to go and should not feel responsible for her. Then Naomi said she was going home!
- One daughter-in-law, Ruth, said she wanted to go with Naomi to Israel.
- Ruth understood that Naomi's God was the one true God. Apparently Naomi had a good testimony [a good time to stop and ask if anyone knows what "testimony" means].
- Naomi was a woman of strength, character, and wisdom. Even though she had been taken to Moab, she still lived for God to the best of her ability.
- They return to Bethlehem. Ruth goes out to glean after the harvesters. When the farmers harvested all that was practical, Ruth went behind to pick up whatever little she could find out in the dirt.
- It just so happens that Ruth went to the field owned by Boaz. She didn't know that Boaz was a relative to Naomi's family. The Jewish customs put responsibility on a family to take care of widows within the family, so you can see God has a plan at work in this story.
- When you do right, God will direct you, pointing you in the direction that He wants you to go. *(Ruth 2:3) And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.*
- When God directs, He brings delight *(Ruth 2:10) 10Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?.*

This must be the place!

Boaz has respect for Ruth because she chose to come with Naomi and take care of her.

(Ruth 2:15-16) 15And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: 16And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.

(Ruth 3:11) 11And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

- Boaz instructed his ranch hands to drop extra corn for Ruth so she had plenty for herself & Naomi. He told them to make sure she had plenty of water to drink, food to eat, & protection in the fields.
- As you read the story you learn how Boaz and Ruth fall in love and get married.
- After awhile they have a son they name Obed.
- When they got married and when the baby was born, look at what the elders say in *Ruth 4:11-15.*
- Verse 15 says *"And he shall be a restorer of thy life..."*. Obed was the father of Jesse who was the father of David. From King David the lineage is traced all the way to JESUS.
- Ruth did right & God blessed her, a woman that turned from idolatry, and made her a part of the earthly heritage of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Summary: You too can be adopted into this wonderful family if you want to accept Jesus as your personal Savior.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATION NOTES as observed by Francine:

When telling the story of Ruth, Ron uses the points listed above. However, as he presents the message he relies on facial animation and expressions, acting out the story as he goes through it. The girls have ALWAYS especially enjoyed the part where Boaz is walking along the road of one of his fields and he first spots Ruth working out there in the field. His eyebrows go up and he expresses the look of a man who has just spotted the most gorgeous creature he has ever laid eyes on. The story is delightfully expressed through the eyes and heart of a man who has love placed in his heart by the Almighty Himself, as indeed, was the case in this beautiful story in this beautiful plan of God to establish the Throne of David. **There are many lessons that can be expressed in this one Book of Ruth. You may want to take this message and break it into more than one session.**

At the conclusion of the message he holds up the boots:

- **What if Ruth had just sat down and decided to give up in Moab?**
 - **She might have been killed for her faith in the God of Israel; no one in Moab would have wanted to marry the widowed “believer”.**
 - **She would have missed the blessings.**
 - **She would not have been the Great-Grandma [27 generations later] of Jesus.**
- **What if she had not believed God was able? And not pulled herself up by the bootstraps, believing God is able to perform all that He places on your heart. Faith pays.**