

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

## REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM MAY 18, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at [www.SunriseTC.org](http://www.SunriseTC.org)

### Ruth 1:16-18

*“But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.”*



What a relief it is to leave Judges behind and come to the Book of Ruth! In spite of the fact that Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and his two sons (Mahlon and Kilion) are living according to the spirit of their day (*doing what is right in their own eyes*), two people (Ruth and Boaz) stand out as examples of those who live by faith in the God of Israel, and whose lives exemplify living in accordance with God's Word. And one of these two – Ruth – is a Moabite, not an Israelite. In the dark shadows of the days of the judges, we find two individuals whose lives are truly lights in the darkness. Here is a story that not only warms our hearts, it encourages our faith by unveiling the providential hand of God in bringing salvation and blessing during one of the darkest periods in Israel's history.

The opening words of A Tale of Two Cities are: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Surely these words aptly describe Ruth in the period of the judges. The final chapters of the Book of Judges are certainly the worst of times, and yet the Book of Ruth describes them as the best of times. This shows me that godly character is not only evident in the good times, but even more dramatically revealed in the bad times. Many, including me, are troubled by the times in which we live, but this is no excuse for ungodly behavior. These are the times of darkness when godliness should shine forth as a brilliant light. The story of Ruth and Boaz (yes, and even Naomi) should encourage us to live godly lives in dark days, days of unbelief, disobedience, and disregard for the Word of God.

I am reminded of the sovereignty of God by our text, but unfortunately most of the emphasis on God's sovereignty in Chapter 1 comes from Naomi, and she is not seeing things as she should. Her God is all powerful, but not merciful and gracious. It is true God also punishes the guilty, but that is not the totality of who God is. God loves to show mercy and compassion. He is slow to anger, and He does forgive sin. He keeps loyal love; that is, God perseveres in His love, and thus He is a covenant-keeping God. If Ruth tells us anything about God, it is that His ways are not our ways. What a mighty, magnificent, merciful, awesome God we serve! I pray that you, like Ruth, have forsaken all confidence in yourself and have cast yourself upon the one true God for salvation.

**Sunrise Community Church**  
*Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst*  
**EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.**

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MAY 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

## The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

## I Would Be True

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/i/w/b/iwbetrue.htm>

[http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/i/w/o/i\\_would\\_be\\_true.mid](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/i/w/o/i_would_be_true.mid)

Acts 11:23: "When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."

**Words:** Howard A. Walter, 1906 (verses 1-3); S. Ralph Harlow (verses 4-6), circa 1918. Walter wrote this hymn while living in Japan. He sent it to his mother, who forwarded it to Harper's Magazine, which published it. Ralph Harlow's daughter Ruth Harlow Berman wrote: My father was a friend of Howard Walter — and after Mr. Walter's death, he had a dream in which Mr. Walter told him that he had three more verses he would like added to his hymn, *I Would Be True*.



S. Ralph Harlow (1885-1972)

**Music:** Joseph Y. Peek, 1911

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all—the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love and lift.  
I would look up, and laugh, and love and lift.

I would be faithful through each passing moment;  
I would be constantly in touch with God;  
I would be strong to follow where He leads me;  
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod;  
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

Who is so low that I am not his brother?  
Who is so high that I've no path to him?  
Who is so poor, that I may not feel his hunger?  
Who is so rich I may not pity him?  
Who is so rich I may not pity him?

Who is so hurt I may not know his heartache?  
Who sings for joy my heart may never share?  
Who in God's heaven has passed beyond my vision?  
Who to Hell's depths where I may never fare?  
Who to Hell's depths where I may never fare?

May none, then, call on me for understanding,  
May none, then, turn to me for help in pain,  
And drain alone his bitter cup of sorrow,  
Or find he knocks upon my heart in vain.  
Or find he knocks upon my heart in vain.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

### May 2014

May 18	8:45 a.m.	<b>New Study in the Book of Ruth</b>
		Ruth 1:1-22 Best of Times, Worst of Times
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
May 20	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study* in Colossians
May 23	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
May 25	8:45 a.m.	Ruth 2:1-23 Can Christian Mingle Beat This?
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
May 26		<b>Memorial Day</b>
May 27		<b>No Bible Study</b> – Wendy Post Operation
May 30		<b>No Friday Night Activity</b>
June 1	8:45 a.m.	Ruth 3:1-18 Undercover Operations
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
June 3	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study* in Colossians
June 6	7:00 p.m.	Game Night
June 8	8:45 a.m.	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>
		Ruth 4:1-22 Gentile Redemption!
June 10	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study* in Colossians
June 13	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship

\*Bible Study is at the Kikkerts' home

## Christian in Sudan sentenced to death for Christian faith

By SALMA ABDELAZIZ, CATHERINE E. SHOICHET, DANIEL BURKE AND ED PAYNE, CNN

UPDATED 8:31 AM EDT, FRI MAY 16, 2014

(CNN) — Hours after a Sudanese court sentenced his pregnant wife to death when she refused to recant her Christian faith, her husband told CNN he feels helpless.

"I'm so frustrated. I don't know what to do," Daniel Wani told CNN on Thursday. "I'm just praying."

This week a Khartoum court convicted his wife, Meriam Yehya Ibrahim, 27, of apostasy, or the renunciation of faith. Ibrahim is Christian, her husband said. But the court considers her to be Muslim. The court also convicted her of adultery and sentenced her to 100 lashes because her marriage to a Christian man is considered void under Sharia law.

The court gave her until Thursday to recant her Christian faith — something she refused to do, according to her lawyer. During Thursday's sentencing hearing, a sheikh told the court "how dangerous a crime like this is to Islam and the Islamic community," said attorney Mohamed Jar Elnabi, who's representing Ibrahim.

"I am a Christian," Ibrahim fired back, "and I will remain a Christian." Her legal team says it plans to appeal the verdict, which drew swift condemnation from human rights organizations around the world.

In the meantime, Ibrahim, who is eight months' pregnant, remains in prison with her 20-month-old son.

"She is very strong and very firm. She is very clear that she is a Christian and that she will get out one day," Elnabi told CNN from Sudan.

Ibrahim was born to a Sudanese Muslim father and an Ethiopian Orthodox mother. Her father left when she was 6 years old, and Ibrahim was raised by her mother as a Christian.

However, because her father was Muslim, the courts considered her to be the same, which would mean her marriage to a non-Muslim man is void.

The case, her lawyer said, started after Ibrahim's brother filed a complaint against her, alleging that she had gone missing for several years and that her family was shocked to find she had married a Christian man.

The court's ruling leaves a family divided, with Ibrahim behind bars and her husband struggling to survive, Elnabi said. Police blocked Wani from entering the courtroom on Thursday, Elnabi said. Lawyers appealed to the judge, but he refused, Elnabi said. Wani uses a wheelchair and "totally depends on her for all details of his life," Elnabi said.