

How to Be Light in the Darkest of Times

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Judges: an example of “the darkest of times”.

- The theme of the Book of Judges: “There was no king, so everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
 - ✓ The result was disastrous.

- The mixture of Israel, as a nation, is exemplified in Samson (Judges 13-16).
 - ✓ He was birthed in an anointing because of his parents’ righteousness.
 - ✓ He loved the wrong things and demanded what was harmful for him and his nation.
 - ✓ He had a covenant with God, but he did not value the covenant.
 - ➔ He loved pleasure and pride more than God’s Covenant.
 - ✓ The end result: he labored as a blind animal, though God used him one final time.
 - ✓ He could never regain his place with God.

- Has America become a “Samson nation”?
 - ✓ Excerpt: *This Precarious Moment* by Jim Garlow and David Barton

Ruth: an example of God’s light in a time of darkness and confusion.

1. She was willing to be a nobody.
 - ✓ She was always referred to as “Ruth the Moabitess”.
 - ✓ 1 Corinthians 1:26-30 (MSG)
2. She was not ruled by her negatives.
 - ✓ Ruth somehow got hold of divine precept.
 - ➔ Matthew 10:39
 - ➔ John 12:24

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3. She chose to stand in what she believed—whether anyone else did or didn't.
 - ✓ Ruth 1:14b (MSG)
 - ✓ Ruth's commitment was to death (Ruth 1:16-17, MSG).
4. She was obedient to her spiritual authority.
 - ✓ In wisdom she knew that she needed guidance (Ruth 3:5b).
 - ✓ Many are afraid of authority because of abuse and unrighteous authority.
 - We must choose not to be ruled by that fear.
5. She was willing to work as a servant (Ruth 2:3a).

Wrap-up

- Ruth's character is character for today.
- Her character brings the light of Jesus into the darkest of times.