

Sermon Notes 3rd June

‘Mind the Gap: Commitment’

In this new sermon series we are looking at how easy it is for our minds to be influenced by the world and our past experiences and as a result our thinking and decision making can become quite different from the way God intended. In the coming weeks as we look at a series of topics, we want to explore some of the mind sets we may hold and how they can be changed to become more in line with Biblical truth.

Read Ruth chapter 1 noting in particular the commitment Ruth makes in verses 16,17.

1. **Ruth made a free choice.** Whilst many recognise commitment is a free choice they might enter it with ‘fingers crossed’, i.e ‘keep their options open’ entertain an opt out clause or a ‘pre- nuptial agreement’. What value does scripture place on the act of commitment (Deut 6:5 note ‘All your heart etc’)?
2. **Ruth’s commitment was unconditional**, ‘no strings attached’. The world suggests that commitments need not be taken too seriously that if something better comes along we can change our mind. How does scripture counter act that mindset (Eccles 5:4-5, Numbers 30:2)? How can we help others (children, grandchildren) learn the value of first commitment.
3. **Ruth’s commitment was costly.** Describe in your own words the cost to Ruth of her decision. Sometimes our culture might suggest it is ok to go back on your word if things get too difficult, too tough and that you shouldn’t commit if it might bring you difficulties. How does the teaching of Jesus contrast with this perspective (Luke 9:23-24)?

If Ruth holds out to us a model of commitment that was: freely chosen, unconditional and costly where does the challenge lie for us in our review of the commitments we have made (God, marriage, job, ministry, leisure activities, friends)?

How might we more effectively live by a Biblical standard in this area and help our children to do so as well?

Pray for one another that we might be inspired by the example of Ruth and seek to live out our commitments as those who are faithful and resolute.

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