



# CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Living Victoriously
Topic	The Components of a Godly Decision
Speaker	Ps Michael Ross Watson
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## Message Summary

### Making the right decisions at the crossroad

We are faced with crossroads every day of our lives - some of them seemingly mundane, others life-changing. This week, Ps Watson brings us through the story of Ruth the Moabite who made the right choice, the *godly* choice when met with a difficult decision. From the story of Ruth, we are taught how we too, can make godly decisions.

### The Components of a Godly Decision

After fleeing to Moab and losing her husband and both her sons, Naomi beseeched Ruth and Orpah, her daughters-in-law, to return to their homes so that she may return to Judah alone. After refusing Naomi a couple of times, Orpah finally kissed her mother-in-law goodbye. However, Ruth clung onto Naomi and persisted in staying by her side.

Ps Watson breaks down Ruth's decision-making process into three parts:

#### 1. Compassion

Ruth had compassion for Naomi, a woman bereaved by the deaths of her husband and sons. Perhaps she knew the sting of losing a husband, but Ruth showed Naomi compassion the way Jesus had compassion for the multitudes [*Matt 9:36*]. The Lord exhorts us to be kind and compassionate to one another [*Eph 4:32*] and to be mindful not to harden our hearts [*Psa 95:8*].

#### 2. Self-denial

When Ruth decided to stay with Naomi, she knew she was giving up the opportunity of finding a husband and getting married. The decision would further require her to confront the potential animosity between herself, a Moabite, and the Israelites. The decision would have her relinquish her freedom. Yet, Ruth put aside her own ambitions and followed Naomi.

Ps Watson narrates the story of Dan Mazur, a climber who made a detour en route to the peak of Mount Everest in order to rescue Lincoln Hall, another climber who had been left on the slopes to die.

The story gives us a semblance of what Jesus meant in Luke 9:23 when he called His disciples to deny themselves if they wished to become His followers. Dan Mazur turned away from his Everest, his dream, to rescue a fallen climber. Ruth gave up on the possibility of a 'good' life to follow Naomi. Ps Watson concludes this point with a warning from the bible – "For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice." [*Jas 3:16*]



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### 3. Wanting God

Above all, Ruth had demonstrated her hunger to know the God of Naomi's faith. Although Naomi was stricken with a life of trials, she never turned from God. Ruth had seen the way Naomi reacted when she heard that God had blessed her people and Naomi's steadfast faith is what motivated Ruth to want to follow Naomi, in pursuit of knowing God.

#### The right decision, the godly decision

When Ruth made her decision to stay with Naomi, she had no idea what the future held. She could not have conceived that God would give her a beautiful husband, Boaz. She could not have conceived that she would become the great grandmother of the greatest king of Israel, David. She could not have possibly conceived that 1,000 years after her death, Matthew would be writing her name in his gospel in Matthew 1, and even more remarkably perhaps, that 3,000 years later, we would still be talking about her.

Ruth became a woman of great stature because she made the right decision. Ps Watson implores us all to strive to do the same.

## Questions

What differentiated the decisions that Ruth and Orpah made?

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Which of the component(s) of Ruth's decision resembles your decision-making process the



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most? What other considerations are included when you are at a crossroad?

What does a *right* decision look like to you? What decision are you currently faced with and how will you go about making it now after hearing this message?