

CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: MINISTRY TO ME

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

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TEXT: RUTH 1:1-18

TOPIC: "LIFTING AS WE CLIMB"

INTRODUCTION

What is the meaning of the motto coined by Mary Church Terrell "lifting as we climb?" UJAMAA - In Swahili, UJAMAA can be taken to mean extended family, brotherhood, and, if used in a political context, a form of solidarity. "Lifting as we climb."

I. LOYALTY. UJAMAA. THE IDEA OF PRESUMED WORTH AND VALUE.

What's In a Name?

1. Naomi: "pleasant or sweet,"
2. Elimelech: "my God is kind."
3. Mahlon: "sickly" and Chilion: "destruction."
4. How should we choose our children's names?

II. THE NOTION OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

There is this notion that if we live by the "rules" things will go well with us. Notions can be misleading.

III. HOW PLEASANT IS IT WHEN AFFLICTION STRIKES? WHO ARE WE WHEN THE HITS JUST KEEP COMING?

The Book of Ruth encourages us to view our day-to-day lives as part of God's bigger plan for our lives and world.

IV. WHAT CAN WE GAIN FROM THIS TRUE STORY OF UJAMAA?

1. See the power of Relationship –
2. See the power of Respect –
3. See the power of Resolution –
4. See the power of Redemption –

V. GOD REDEEMS THE LOST - NAOMI THOUGHT HER FAMILY LINE HAD ENDED, BUT GOD CONTINUES IT THROUGH A KINSMAN-REDEEMER.

POINT: We must view our day-to-day lives as part of God's bigger plan for our lives and world.

Out of Naomi and Ruth and Boaz's cooperation lifting, they lifted not only themselves up but so many others. In the very last verse of the book (4:22), it says that Ruth and Boaz's son, Obed, fathered Jesse, and Jesse's son was David. Jesus, being a direct descendent of David (Matthew 1:1), is therefore a direct descendant of Ruth and Boaz. Matthew 1:1-5 includes them in Jesus's genealogy.

VI. UJAMAA - It was Ujamaa practiced by Boaz, Ruth and Naomi that lifted as they climbed, UJAMAA, that lifted until the future brought down through the generations the One who said, "IF I BE LIFTED UP, I WILL DRAW ALL PERSONS UNTO ME!"

Lifting as We Climb

1. **UJAMAA: Cooperative Economics**— "To build our own businesses, control the economics of our own community and share in all its work and wealth."
2. **UJAMAA:** is a commitment to the practice of shared social wealth and the work necessary to achieve it.
3. **UJAMAA:** also stresses self-reliance in the building, strengthening and controlling of the economics of our own community.
4. **UJAMAA:** "To build our own businesses, control the economics of our own community and share in all its work and wealth."



VII. THE PILGRIM REST HEALING GARDEN IS UJAMAA: NOT ONLY TO FEED BUT TO FACILITATE HEALING, LIFTING.

QUESTION: What other ministries is Pilgrim Rest doing that is Ujamaa?

ANSWERS:

CONCLUSION: As Mary Church Terrell, stated is still true:

“LIFTING AS WE CLIMB, ONWARD AND UPWARD WE GO, STRUGGLING AND STRIVING AND HOPING THAT THE BUDS AND BLOSSOMS OF OUR DESIRES WILL BURST INTO GLORIOUS FRUITION ERE LONG.... SEEKING NO FAVORS BECAUSE OF OUR COLOR, NOR PATRONAGE BECAUSE OF OUR NEEDS, WE KNOCK AT THE BAR OF JUSTICE AND ASK FOR AN EQUAL CHANCE.”

Last verse: “This call that we have, the world didn’t give it to us. The world didn’t give it and the world can’t take it away.”