

# AT THE MOVIES

## Black Widow

October 24, 2021 Message Notes

RUTH 1:16

Like our hero today, all of us have a past that influences and impacts our present and future. Scripture has much to say about that and how God brings new hope for the future. The past doesn't have to hold us captive, but it's important to have an awareness of how the darkness of our raising shows up in our lives.



## NOTES

*“One thing’s for sure. I’m done running from my past.” – Black Widow, Natasha*

Like this hero, all of us have a past that influences and impacts our present and future.

*“Connecting all the dots makes us whole.” – Psychology Today, Oct. 2018*

**Scripture has much to say about our past and how God brings new hope for the future.**

*“Forget the former things. Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing.”*

*ISAIAH 43:18-19*

*“One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize in Christ Jesus.”*

*PHILIPPIANS 3:12*

**The past doesn't have to hold us captive, but Scripture also warns about how the darkness of our raising shows up in our lives.**

*“I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected - even children in the third and fourth generations.”*

*EXODUS 34:6-7*

Black Widow was programmed to kill from childhood. Her free will and the ability to make her own choices was taken from her.

**The freedom to choose and make your own decisions is key in not running from your past.**

*“A woman who has come into her own and is making independent and active choices for herself while being in a dark place with no one to call.” – Scarlett Johansson, on being the Black Widow.*

The book of Ruth in the Bible tells the story of two women grieving the losses of their husbands and having to make choices through dark situations.

*“Do not urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go and where you stay I will stay. Your people shall be my people and your God my God.”*

*RUTH 1:16*

*“Don’t call me Naomi (pleasant). Call me Mara (bitter). The Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full. But the Lord has brought me back empty.”*



RUTH 1:20-21

Do you know anybody who is bitter? Are you bitter?

Life is hurtful, messy and hard giving us reasons to be bitter. It was like that for Black Widows Natasha and Yelena, and for widows Ruth and Naomi.

“Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite.”

RUTH 1:22

Natasha teams with her sister, Yelena, to face the villain and do what it takes to free the other black widows.

**The movie world says:** “Give me freedom. Give me power. Let me kill the bad guys.”

What are we to do when we are wronged? Destroy? Get rid of their memory? Act as if they are dead to us? Inflammation on social media? We see these methods in our culture today.

Jesus promised his truth would set us free, and his truth has a lot to say about what to do when you are wronged, when you have valid reasons to be bitter.

**The Bible teaches:** “The key to freedom and power is grace and truth shown in forgiveness, mercy, justice and sacrifice.”

All of these are themes in Ruth’s story and in the story of Jesus.

They are also woven into the story of Black Widow in Avengers Endgame when she used her restored freedom of choice and the power of sacrificial love to open a way for others.

“Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.”

JOHN 15:13

How does this help us in finding freedom from our past, our grudges, the injuries and mistakes? What did Naomi and Ruth do?

**Freedom of choice with the power of grace opens a door to new hope. That’s how forgiveness works in a Christian’s life.**

“Though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.”

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3



“On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.”

*2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-4*

“We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

*2 CORINTHIANS 10:5*

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.”

*EPHESIANS 4:31*

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

*EPHESIANS 4:32*

Scripture tells us our battle is not with flesh and blood, but with spiritual opponents in this dark world. Yet they are spiritual forces that are overcome with spiritual weapons – like righteousness, peace, hope, faith, truth and the Word of God in Christ.

On the cross Jesus prayed: “Father, forgive them...”

*LUKE 23:24*

How can we stop running from the past?

I use my freedom to choose God’s power and let forgiveness show me the way – to let God meet me in the pain, to let go of resentment, to release anger and bitterness. To show me the way to receive God’s forgiveness through Christ and let it flow for me, to me and through me to others – especially those who have hurt me.

Ruth used her freedom of choice to trust Naomi’s God and leave her past behind her and she was given a place in the lineage of Messiah so healing could get to the world.

“This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham...Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David...”

*MATTHEW 1:1, 5-6*

