

God is in control!

Ruth 4 – Lesson for Sunday, December 11, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

- Take a moment to review the story of Ruth to begin introducing this final chapter.
- What have been the key takeaways from this book? *Use this as an opportunity to see what your people are learning and remembering from this study. It may give you some insights into what they are dealing with in their personal lives at this time.*
- Remind the class that the main character of every Bible story is God. How has that applied in these lessons?
 - The book is called Ruth – one could easily assume the story is all about her.
 - The book of Ruth is told from Naomi's perspective – so we could conclude this is all about Naomi.
 - Boaz ends up being the hero – maybe the book is really about him!
 - Actually, the book is about God! The question is what is He doing and how are we to respond?
- Let's finish chapter 4...

OUTLINE:

1. The Summons (vs. 1-6)
 - a. At the town gate Boaz meets with the other family redeemer and ten town leaders. The city gate was where the town business would take place.
 - b. The rights of the family redeemer (vs. 1-5): Boaz reminds the other family redeemer that he has first chance to buy Elimelech's land. The man is interested, but then Boaz adds that the buyer must also marry Ruth.
 - c. The refusal of the family redeemer (vs. 6): The other family redeemer declines to buy the land since it would endanger his own estate.
2. The Symbol (vs. 7-12)
 - a. The family redeemer offers Boaz the estate and validates the transaction by giving him his sandal. This was a custom of that day which symbolized in a land transaction that "I will never step foot on your property."
 - b. During the time of the judges, to redeem had three meanings:
 - i. To free from bondage
 - ii. To free from poverty
 - iii. To free from death
 - c. Boaz redeemed Ruth and Naomi in all three ways! In this act he portrayed the redemption that Jesus offers each of us from slavery to sin, poverty of spirit, and the consequences of death.
3. The Son (vs. 13-17)
 - a. The fruitfulness of Ruth (vs. 13): Ruth becomes Boaz's wife, and she gives birth to a son. This seems to be a direct blessing of God! Remember that Ruth had been married to her first husband for ten years and was unable to have a baby.

- b. The faithfulness of God (vs. 14-17): The women in Bethlehem remind Naomi of the Lord's goodness to her.
4. The Summary (vs. 18-22)
 - a. In God's marvelous plan Boaz and Ruth become great-grandparents of King David.
 - b. This also puts them in the direct family line of Jesus as seen in Matthew 1:5.
 - c. Ruth is a wonderful story of God's providence. What does this mean? Where do you need to trust God's providence right now?
 - d. Interesting point: Obed's birth was certainly a blessing to Boaz, Ruth and Naomi. But Obed's birth is also a blessing to all mankind!
 - e. How does Jesus Christ, like Boaz, function as a kinsman redeemer for us?

APPLICATION:

- What is the biggest lesson that you have learned from our study of Ruth?
- Using the story of Ruth, can you now talk about God's sovereignty and providence?