

Ruth Rewind

Lesson for December 18, 2022

SUMMARY:

Today we wrap up our study of Ruth! Start with this exercise for 15 minutes:

- ⇒ Divide the class into four groups and assign each group a chapter of Ruth.
- ⇒ Give them a few minutes to work together to summarize their assigned chapter.
- ⇒ Allow each group to briefly report back what happened in the chapter and the main takeaway.

CHARACTERS:

What are the character traits from each of the main characters that we can remember & apply? Lead a brief discussion about each of these three people. Allow class participation as much as possible. Allow about 10 minutes for this portion of the lesson.

- ⇒ Naomi: a woman who experienced a great deal of misfortune in her life. She lost her homeland, her husband, two sons and her future. She was honest about her feelings (compare with the psalmists) but she was also open to see when God was working. She seems to be compassionate toward others throughout the book.
- ⇒ Ruth: a woman who exercised tremendous faith throughout. She really fits the profile in Proverbs 31.
- ⇒ Boaz: a man of character, integrity and piety. He is familiar with the Mosaic Law and he has a personal knowledge of Jehovah which is contrasted with the culture within which he lives (the times of the Judges).

BIBLE STUDY: *The book of Ruth is the story of redemption.* It tells how one who was a stranger to the commonwealth and covenants of Israel, dwelling afar off in heathen darkness was introduced to one who became her kinsman-redeemer and her lord. Consider this outline of the book in the final 10 minutes...

1. A Famine
 - a. The story opens and Ruth is a pagan. She was a member of a hostile race and cut off from any knowledge of the living God.
 - b. In spite of this, we see God setting in motion a chain of events which brought her at last to Boaz. The first link was a famine (1:1) – a providential act of God which she had no control and about which she probably knew nothing and cared less.
 - c. Yet it was the beginning of things for Ruth although she didn't know it.
2. A Family
 - a. Into Ruth's life moved a family from Bethlehem. It was through this family that Ruth first heard of Jehovah.
 - b. She married into this family and had a first-hand opportunity to see and to hear for herself their devotion to God.
3. A Funeral
 - a. There were actually three unexpected funerals!

- b. Ruth's own husband died. It was certainly a tragedy at the time, but she could have never met Boaz as God intended for her to do without that funeral.
 - c. It's a reminder that God is too wise to make any mistakes.
- 4. A Fear
 - a. Naomi announced she was leaving Moab. The only light Ruth had was seemingly going out.
 - b. She voiced her resolution to get to follow not just Naomi but also Naomi's God in one of the most powerful passages in all the book (1:16-17).
- 5. A Field
 - a. In 2:3 Ruth "happened" to settle in a field to glean that "happened" to belong to Boaz.
 - b. That's how Ruth was sought by God. He overruled the affairs of her life until she was brought face to face with the one who was to become her redeemer.
 - c. The story really picks up pace at this point:
 - i. Naomi teaches Ruth to put herself at the feet of Boaz and ask to be redeemed – to be put in his family.
 - ii. Then she was sought by Boaz, according to the redemption laws of Israel, and made his very own.

CONCLUSION: What a beautiful picture!

- ⇒ Just as in the life of Ruth, God takes the initiative and begins to move behind the scenes to bring us into the presence of His Son and under the sound of His Word.
- ⇒ He teaches us the simple plan of redemption and we become willing to ask the Lord Jesus Christ to become ours and to make us His.
- ⇒ Then He shows us how the redemption price has been paid at Calvary and, unworthy as we are, He lifts us up and makes us His very own.
- ⇒ What a story!