

Ruth

Week 4 Ruth, Chapter 4/Scene 4

Title: A Home is Found

Introduction:

- Discover Trinity, September 15 and 29
- Finding our way. Here we go. Another bad dad joke...
Hear about the new restaurant called Karma? There is no menu: You get what you deserve.

Mike

Review the Story: (Picture of Gideon)

- The book of Ruth takes place in the time of the Judges.
- The Judges are militant leaders that arose after Joshua passed away.
- Remember: Not everything the Bible reports does the Bible endorse.
- This is a dark time in Hebrew history - they have abandoned their mission to be the love and light of God into the world and the world has infiltrated them.
- Oppression, violence and famine have driven Naomi and her family out of the Promised Land.
- **Naomi's** story goes from bad to worse. In the land of Moab she loses her husband and sons.
- Based on nothing more than a rumor she returns home with one of her mourning daughters, Ruth.
- Finally, back with the Hebrew people Naomi and Ruth meet a man named Boaz and work to survive by connecting with him.
- Ruth offers herself to Boaz and he ultimately will accept but it must be done right. It must be honorable and right. The character of Boaz is so clear. Do good things and do them the right way.
- This leads us to chapter 4 of Ruth.

Scripture: (Picture of Ruth week 4)

Boaz works in the light.

Boaz arranges the redemption at the gate. This was actually a common practice. The "gate" of a community was often the place that served as the courthouse. The presence of elders made the transaction official. Boaz works in full honor and accepts Ruth and Naomi into his family.

Ruth 4:13-17

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who

loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. 17 And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Observation: (Picture of Ruth week 4)

1. Let’s pause and remember the story of Naomi. All the times of discouragement.
 - It begins with the Promised Land. Hope.
 - It is followed by the corruption of the Hebrew people. Famine and violence surround her. Deep discouragement.
 - They flee to Moab in an attempt to make a good life. Hope.
 - In Moab she loses her husband. Deep discouragement.
 - Her sons find wives. Hope.
 - Her sons die. Deep discouragement.
 - Rumor of food in the homeland. Hope.
 - God’s redemptive plan through good faithful people.

Isn’t this the way life works? It’s so easy to grow weary in trying to do good. I don’t know if you are in a season of hope or discouragement, but I can promise God will work all things for good for those that love Him.

Rom. 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Are you in a time of hope or discouragement? Remember this, your story isn’t done.

- Say this with me. My story isn’t done. God is still working.
2. God loves to work through faithful, ordinary people. He doesn’t exclude humanity – he includes us in making things beautiful. Some scholars call this the shyness of God.
 - Say this with me. God wants to use me.
 3. The enemy comes to destroy, God’s love works to restore.
 - The story begins with total loss. The story ends in redemption. Notice that the mechanism God used was the love of Ruth, a poor foreign immigrant, the love of a faithful hard-working normal man, and the only binding agent is commitment to God’s ways. What does this mean?
 - Submission to the love of God can create family within people of different age, race, income level and place of origin.
 - Say this with me. As a Christian I am not alone. I am part of a glorious family.

Application:

God is drawing all people back into Himself. It is happening through billions and billions of little acts of love that are weaving together a tapestry that displays the goodness of God. Every act of charity, every decision to live in spiritual honor, and every act that helps others do the same are seeds that will grow into something glorious. Be faithful in the little things and they will grow towards the greatest of loves – God.

I received another message from another student I had while I was a youth pastor. It always amazes me the things that they remember. I often think it will be the sermons or well-timed insights I offered while mentoring them. I am almost always wrong. What the kids remember most is the kind of person I was. Oh, I didn't always get it right, but there were moments, by God's grace, where I did. This time it was how I treated my family. It was picking up my son and engaging with him when he was little. It was how I loved on my wife in front of the students. People don't remember what you say as much as they remember how you made them feel. Do you help people feel the love of God?

Next Steps Cards:

Who needs to feel and experience the love of God through you?

Resources:

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

The Bible Project: Judges; www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOYy8iCfIJ4

Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (Ru 3:4). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

4:1–12 Scene 4: Boaz Arranges Redemption at the Gate. This scene is framed by opening and closing at the “gate” with “elders” (vv. 1–2, 11–12). Both verb or noun forms of “redeem” occur throughout this scene (vv. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8; cf. 2:20; 3:9, 12, 13; 4:14).

Crossway Bibles. (2008). The ESV Study Bible (p. 482). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

4:1–12 Boaz follows through on his promise to redeem Ruth, negotiating with the other relative for the right of redemption. The scene takes place at the city gate with 10 of the elders serving as witnesses to the transaction. What transpires at the city gate between Boaz and the elders resembles the legal procedure described in Deut 25:7–9.

Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (Ru 4:1–12). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

4:13–17 Conclusion: Naomi Blessed with a New Family. The conclusion serves as the reversal of the introduction, showing how the Lord, through Ruth's love (v. 15), restored Naomi's life.

Crossway Bibles. (2008). The ESV Study Bible (p. 483). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Accordingly Boaz added that if the *gō'ēl* would acquire rights to the land, he must also acquire Ruth with the specific purpose of marrying her and fathering a child through her on behalf of

Elimelech and his son. Since the clause (lit.) “to establish the name of the deceased on his patrimonial land” borrows heavily from Deut 25:7, we observe here for the first time in the book an explicit reference to the levirate law.

Block, D. I. (1999). Judges, Ruth (Vol. 6, p. 714). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Gideon picture: <https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/3-important-lessons-gideon-teaches-us-about-prayer.html>

Ruth Picture: <http://biblescripture.net/Ruth.html>