

Ruth 1

Introduction to Ruth:

- Date: v.1 says it happened during the time of the Judges.
- Judges presents Israel in disobedience, but Ruth shows that even in culture of disobedience, some people can live Godly lives and God can work in individual people's lives.

- The end of the book mentions the genealogy down to David, so it was recorded near the time of David.
- The genealogy at the end of Ruth is very important. Ruth and Boaz were the great-grandparents of King David, who was given the promise of the Davidic Covenant.
- Ruth is mentioned in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus (Matt. 1:5)

- Ruth is a very romantic story
- But it is also an important illustration of what Jesus does for us.
- the book of Ruth tells the romance and marriage of a poor destitute woman and a rich man who falls in love.
- The man falls in love with her and redeems her by becoming her husband and giving her children.
- the romance of the man and woman mirror the romance of Jesus who fell in love with His church and is the only one who can redeem people.
- the book of Ruth shows the love of a couple, but also shows how Christ loves His church, which is His bride.

- Our salvation is because Jesus is a kinsman redeemer.
- A very important part of Christian doctrine is redemption. The one who pays the price to redeem us needs to be a mediator.
- This little book of Ruth explains the idea of kinsman redeemer being a mediator for us.
- God had to become a human to redeem us.
- "For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all..." (1 Timothy 2:5)

--Hebrews 9:14-15 say that because Jesus offered Himself in our behalf, He is the mediator of the new covenant.
--Three times in Hebrews it refers to Jesus as a mediator.
--So in Ruth we have this romantic love story between a man and a woman, but it is really an illustration of what Jesus does for the church, which is His bride.

--Besides salvation in Christ, Ruth also talks about:
--God's ways of taking care of the poor,
--racial discrimination,
--God's sovereign use of circumstances to achieve His purposes
--pain and loss of loved ones
--romance between men and women
--Pain and emptiness can be turned into fullness and blessing

--Key words in Ruth:
--Redeem
--Kindness:
--God showed kindness to Ruth and Naomi
--Boaz recognized Ruth's kindness to Naomi
--Boaz shows kindness in redeeming Ruth
--Rest:
--Naomi wishes that God would give rest to her daughters in law
--Ruth rested "a little" when she was reaping in Boaz' field
--Boaz would not rest until he had redeemed Ruth
--In the end they all found rest.

Read Ruth 1:1

--This sets up the story.
--This family of Jews ends up in a foreign country: a husband, wife, and two sons.

--There is irony here: Bethlehem means "house of bread." So there is famine in the house of bread.

--Also when Joshua came, the land was "flowing with milk and honey." That there was a famine shows the judgement of God.

--Bethlehem is where Jesus was born. He is the bread of life.

--The story of Ruth begins and ends in Bethlehem. It starts in famine and ends in plenty.

--Whenever the Jews leave the land, it is not a good sign. Jews were promised the land of Israel and that's where they belong.

--When a Jewish person leaves the promised land and goes to another land, it is a sign that something is not right.

--This is true to this day: Whenever Jews leave a country, it will soon be under God's judgement.

--Here a Jewish family leaves and goes to Moab, a pagan land, which shows that something is not right; somehow they are out of fellowship with God.

Read Ruth 1:3-5

--So now we have the wife, Naomi, with her two daughters in law, who are not Jews but Moabites.

1. Are Jews supposed to marry pagan spouses?

--No

--This is another sign of being out of fellowship with God.

2. Naomi has lost her husband and her two sons. How do you think she feels?

--There is no indication that Naomi got any comfort or consolation from the Moabite people.

--She is alone in a foreign land and has lost her husband and her children.

--She must have been devastated.

3. Is it possible for grief to overwhelm someone?

4. What should people do if they're overwhelmed with grief?

- Seek a pastor or counselor
- Get out and do something

5. Is it possible that we can mature spiritually when we experience tragedy? Why? How?

Read Ruth 1:6-18

--v.6: They hear that there is food in Israel

--v.7: All three of the women start on the way toward Judah, back where Naomi was from.

6. v.8: Naomi tells her daughters in law to go back home to their mothers. Why?

--v.9: Naomi kissed the young women and they're all crying.

--This is a very sad time, a tragedy.

--This is a very tender and emotional scene.

--There is no real way to be comforted at a time like this.

--The emotion is overwhelming.

7. If you come across someone in such a depth of grief, there's nothing to say. What can you do?

- Sometimes just sit with them and pray for them

- Wait a number of weeks and come back and speak to them

8. v.9: What is Naomi talking about when she says that they should each "find rest in the house of her husband?"

--Naomi is telling them to go back home where they came from and find another husband.

--v.10: both daughters in law tell Naomi that they want to go to Israel with Naomi.

--v.11ff: Naomi tells them to go back to their country and find another husband.

9. v.11: What is Naomi talking about when she says “Why should you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may be your husbands?”

--The Mosaic law says that if a husband dies, his brother is supposed to marry the widow and raise children to inherit the family property and family name.(Deut. 25:5)

10. What purpose did this law serve?

--this took care of widows

--this kept the land in the family

--It discouraged large corporate farms and promoted family businesses.

11. v.13c: Who does Naomi say is against her?

--the Lord

--Naomi does not know the end of the story, all she sees is the current problem

--But we know the end of the story:

--Ruth gets connected with a wealthy man

--She ends up being in the genealogy of the messiah

12. Was God really against her?

13. Is it possible that God can use circumstances, even a great tragedy?

--We should trust the Lord in all circumstances.

--We do not see the end or what God is doing.

--Heb. 12:11: “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

--By the end of the story, Naomi and Ruth are at peace and full of joy.

Read Ruth 1:14-18

--v.14: One daughter in law leaves but the other, Ruth, wants to stay with Naomi

--The first woman started toward Israel and God but turned back.

14. Do some people make a start toward God but turn back before they get to a right relation with Him?

--Yes

--Remember the parable of the sower. Some seeds start growing but get choked out by the cares of the world.

--v.15-16: We learn that there is more to the story

15. v.15-16: What key thing do we notice about Ruth compared to the other woman?

--The first daughter in law went back to her family and to her gods

--Ruth says "your people shall be my people and your God my God."

--Ruth wants to identify as a Jew and worship the true God.

--This is one of the keys of the story.

--Ruth is turning from the gods of Moab to the one almighty God

16. Does God always recognize and bless those who turn to Him?

--Yes

--v.17: Ruth mentions the Lord by name.

17. Ruth speaks as if she knows the Lord, or at least knows a good bit about Him. How do you think she learned about the true God?

--from being around Naomi and her family.

--Ruth is not just clinging to Naomi, she is clinging to the true God.

--Ruth is showing great dedication to Naomi.

--Besides following God, she commits to the human needs of her mother in law and dedicates herself to being with Naomi for the rest of her life.

--She does not know that it will turn out well; for all she knows, she could be dooming herself to being poor and an outcast for the rest of her life.

--But she commits anyway.

--This shows love and dedication.

--v.17: "Where you die, I will die." Ruth is committed for life. This is not temporary for her. She will not be going back to the Moabite gods.

--She is committed to YHWH for good and commits to not turning back.

18. If you truly commit to God, is there a turning back?

--No

--Following God is not a temporary thing

Read Ruth 1:19-22

--v.19: They get back to Jerusalem, where "the whole town was stirred."

19. Why would the town be "stirred?"

--Because of the tragedy: Naomi lost her husband and both sons.

--Note: The whole town was stirred, but not stirred enough to do anything about it. No one seems to reach out to help Naomi and Ruth.

--v.20: "Do not call me Naomi" which means "sweet" or "pleasant"

"call me Mara" which means "bitter"

--Naomi is in a very low point in her life.

--All her old friends she grew up with now see her come back empty and grieving. Her entire family has died and now she is destitute with no children.

20. v.20c: To whom is Naomi laying the blame?

--God

--v.21: Three times in this verse she lays the blame at the feet of God

21. She says "The Lord has testified (afflicted, witnessed) against me". Is this true?

22. Does Naomi have a right to be bitter?

23. Does Naomi have a right to blame God four times in two verses?

--She can be forgiven for being bitter in the face of great tragedy.

--She is wrong for blaming God.

--God is about to do something much greater than if He had prospered her in Moab.

Ruth 2

- This chapter introduces the concept of gleaning.
- Gleaning was the way that the mosaic law provided welfare for the poor.
- Gleaning was the way that the poor were to get food.

Read Duet. 24:19-21

Read Leviticus 19:9-10

- When the harvesters would go pick, they were not to go back a second time and pick what they had left.
- Often times during harvest the grain or fruit do not all get ripe at exactly the same time. The harvesters pick the ripe ones and leave the unripe ones, which ripen later. Plus it's easy to miss a few.

- they were not to harvest the corners
The corners of the field would mean at every crossroads, each corner would have some grain. Leaving the corners gave some food for the travelers.

- the poor of the community could go behind the harvesters and glean what was left.
This was a type of public assistance.

1. Is there a Biblical way to handle feeding the poor?
 - Yes
 - 1 Timothy 5 gives detailed instructions about money collected for the poor. If a person is able to work, they should work and not get public money.
 - 1 Timothy 5 says to only give assistance to those who do not have families or cannot work lest "they learn to be idle."
 - 2 Thess. 3:10: "If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat."
 - James 2:16 strongly implies that it is the responsibility of those who have money to help those who are destitute. But this is voluntary. It

does not say to forcibly take money from people to give to the poor.

--By contrast, governments forcibly take money from working people and give it to people with no regard to whether they are able to support themselves, but just because they're poor. This is against the Bible.

--There is one place in the law where it says to have a central gathering place for the poor: Every third year the people were to bring their tithes and give it to the priests and widows. (Deut 14:28-29).

--the Biblical way is for the first option to have people work for their food, then only get assistance if they cannot work and do not have family to take care of them.

--But the poor had to go and get it, to work for it. God did not set up a rule where the landowner collected everything, then gave some to the government, who then distributed it.

--The poor were taken care of, but they had to work for it.

--1:22c: What crop were they harvesting?

--Barley

--Barley is a very rough grain, difficult for humans to eat. It is better as food for livestock.

--Yet Ruth is not complaining; rather, she seems eager to go to work to get what she can.

Read Ruth 2:1-9

--v.1: We meet Boaz.

2. v.1: What does it say about Boaz?

--he is wealthy (worthy, great man of wealth)

--He was "of the family of Elimilech, which was Naomi's deceased husband.

--Boaz is the Christ figure; he is a man of "great wealth" or "great strength."

3. Is God wealthy?

--Romans 9:23: talks about the "riches of His glory."

--Ephesians 2:4: God is "rich in mercy."

--v.2: Ruth says she is going to glean and hopes to find favor from someone

She is trusting in the providence of the Lord.

--v.3: Ruth just happened to start gleaning the field of Boaz.

--v.5: Boaz just happened to notice Ruth.

4. Did Ruth meet Boaz just by chance, or was it arranged by divine providence?

--No

--these are the providence of the Lord

--Like the book of Esther, the things in the Lord's will "just happen" to fall into place

5. Can we trust in the providence of the Lord?

6. Even if we are in bad circumstances?

--v.2: Notice Ruth's attitude: she says she wants to go glean from someone "in whose sight I might find favor."

--Ruth has a humble attitude; she is not complaining or protesting or demanding that she is owed something.

--The poor must not demand help as if it is a debt to them.

--the poor should not beg for what they can work to earn for themselves.

--Likewise, the rich should view it their responsibility to help the poor.

--James 2:15-16 tell those who have resources to do more than just ignore the poor.

--Jesus said "when you give a feast, invite the poor, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed because they cannot repay you." (Luke 14:13)

7. Should the wealthy of Israel have reached out to Naomi and Ruth to help them?

--Yes

--the wealthy have a Biblical responsibility to help the poor

8. v.4: Where was Boaz from?
--Bethlehem
9. Who else in the Bible came from Bethlehem?
--Jesus
--Boaz is going to be a type of Christ

10. With that attitude did Boaz and the workers speak to each other?
--v.4: Boaz greets the harvesters with a friendly greeting and they reply back with a friendly greeting.
--Boaz is the boss but he seems to be liked by the workers.
--Bosses sometimes cannot be friendly to everyone but they can be respected and liked.
--Likewise the workers showed respect for the one who hired them.
--Everyone can make life better by a kind word on a regular basis.

--v.5: Boaz notices Ruth.
We can almost hear the emotion..."Whose young woman is this?"
--He notices her
--He notices that she is young

11. Do you think he's taking an interest in her?
This is a very romantic story.

12. Regarding salvation in Christ, who notices who first?
--" But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
(Romans 5:8)

--Keep in mind that Ruth is a foreigner; in most cultures, foreigners are discriminated against, or at least people do not go out of their way to help them.

13. What does the Bible teach about whether race matters to the Lord?

--"there cannot be Jew nor Greek, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondman, freeman; but Christ is all, and in all." (Galatians 3:28)

--"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Colossians 3:11)

--"there is no partiality with God." (Romans 2:11)

--there is no racial bias with the Lord.

--One of the key points in this book is that Ruth is an outsider, a foreigner, helpless and poor, and the Christ figure, Boaz, takes notice of her and redeems her.

14. v.7c: How long has Ruth been working?

15. What does this tell us about Ruth?

--she is a hard worker

--v.8: Boaz tells her to stay and glean in his field.

16. do you think he's interested?

--v.9b: "have I not charged the young men not to touch you."

--Now Boaz is protecting her.

17. Who is our protector?

--Jesus

18. Are Christians are supposed to notice the poor and disadvantaged?

--Yes

--Galatians 2:10: Remember the poor.

--Those of us who are in leadership positions have the responsibility to take care of the least advantaged and to make sure everyone is treated fairly.

--we have an obligation to do that.

19. If the leaders do not take care of the disadvantaged, who will?

--Boaz is showing kindness to Ruth, protecting her, taking notice of her.

--God's people are under His protection.

--God takes care of His own.

Read Ruth 2: 10-13

--v.10: Ruth describes herself as a foreigner.

As a foreigner, she is not a child of Israel, not a child of the covenant. She is not one of God's chosen people.

Yet Boaz has notice her.

20. v.11: How much does Boaz know about her?

--Does God notice when we do something sacrificial? Remember Ruth left Moab and did not know what the consequences would be. She did not know how she would be treated.

--Ruth was not taking care of Naomi because she wanted to be seen; she was taking care of Naomi because it was the right thing to do.

--Yet Boaz, the Christ figure, noticed.

--Christ notices our good works.

--John 1:47: Jesus first meets Nathaniel and says "Behold an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

21. v.13c: Ruth describes herself as "not one of your servants." Do we start out as a child of God?

--No

22. Are all people a child of God?

--No

23. What type of relationship with God do all people start out with?

--separation

--we start out as foreigners to God

--there is a belief called "fatherhood of God, brotherhood of man" that teaches that God is the father of all people and all people are brothers and sisters under God.

The Bible does not teach this.

--The Bible teaches that all people start out as sinners under God's wrath. He is not their father until they become in a relationship with Jesus.

24. With whom is God wrathful?

--all unsaved people

--Ruth describes herself as "not your servant."

Yet she is acting like a servant.

Next we learn of the sacred romance.

Read Ruth 2:14-16

25. What is Boaz doing?

--ensuring she stays close and taking care of her

--He is interested in her.

--Ruth was poor and destitute, from a far country, no way to make a living

--Boaz, the Christ figure, knows all about her.

26. v.14: What does Boaz give Ruth at mealtime?

27. v.10: What did Boaz provide Ruth when she was thirsty?

--water

--she didn't even have to draw the water

--Boaz is providing sustenance: water and bread

--He also provides tasty vinegar to dip the bread in. So he's not just providing bare sustenance, but also providing something extra that tastes good.

28. v.14c: How much bread did Ruth get?

--Enough to be full plus some extra.

--v.18: Ruth has enough extra bread to bring it home to Naomi.

--This was probably the first time she had been full in a very long time, perhaps ever.

--Now she is full to overflowing.

--We as Christians are the same; we are foreigners in a strange land, helpless and hopeless

--Christ notices us and invites us to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

--to be reconciled with Christ is like a romance;
Our salvation in Jesus is a sacred romance.

--Being with Jesus is a love relationship, a sacred romance where each day we fall more and more in love.

--Each day our great lover brings us gifts and reminds us how much He loves us and how He wants to do good things for us.

--Like Ruth, we find gifts that our Lord has left us, special presents just for us.

--Jesus loves us even though we're not very lovable.

--"We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

29. When we are lost and in need of a savior, does Christ give us water? Food?

30. Does Christ give us not just enough to survive on, but give us things that make life taste good?

31. Does Christ give us to overflowing so that we not only are full but overflowing to others around us?

--Boaz did not give just a little, he gave a lot.

--Christ does not give us just a little, He gives us to overflowing.

--He "who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think." (Ephesians 3:20)

--Ruth was an alien in a foreign land just as Christians are aliens in a foreign land.

--Jesus reaches out to us and not only provides what we need, but gives to overflowing.

--how wonderful.

32. v.14: Who is serving who?

--Boaz is serving Ruth

33. Should it not be that Ruth be the servant? Why would Boaz be serving Ruth?

--Boaz is the Christ figure

34. Did Christ come to be served or to serve?

--Christ served us, even though He is more deserving

35. v.16: What is he telling his harvesters to do?

--leave some for her on purpose.

--This is a loving thing to do--it is very interesting to watch people fall in love.

--v.17-23: By the end of the day Ruth had gathered a little less than six gallons of cleaned barley, which was about 30 pounds. This was a lot for one young woman just gleaning.

--Naomi realizes that Ruth gathered way more than average and figures something is going on.

--Naomi asks whose field she gleaned in and finds out that it is Boaz.

--v.20: Naomi says that Boaz is a close relative.

--In the Hebrew, the word Naomi uses is not just saying Boaz is a close relative, she is saying he is a kinsman redeemer.

--In the next chapter we will find out what is a kinsman redeemer and what this means to Ruth and to us.

Ruth Chapter 3

Review

In Ch. 1-2, Elimilech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons go to Moab.

- The sons marry Moabite wives
- The father and both sons die
- Naomi and her two daughters in law are destitute
- Ruth decides to follow Naomi and her God
- They go back to Jerusalem
- Ruth begins to glean in the fields of Boaz
- It is a very romantic story of Boaz and Ruth falling in love
- Boaz notices her: "Who is this young maiden?"
- Boaz starts making sure she is taken care of

Ruth is a story that explains the idea of a "kinsman redeemer"

- Boaz took care of Ruth, inviting her to his table
- Christ invites us to the marriage supper of the lamb
- Ruth was helpless, but Boaz noticed and reached out to her to save her from being destitute.
- We are helpless and Christ notices us and reaches out to us to save us.
- Christ was a human like us and was our redeemer

Read Ruth 3:1-5

- v.1: Naomi says that she is going to help Ruth.
- v.2: "Is not Boaz our relative (kinsman)"

- She is speaking of Duet. 25:5-10: Which says that if a man dies, his brother should take the wife and marry her.
- apparently this responsibility went to the extended family.

1. The idea of the kinsman redeemer brings several benefits. What were they?

- Raise up children in the name of the dead man to keep the family name going
- Keep the family land in the family
- Provide children to take care of the widow to keep her out of poverty and take care of her when she got old.

--Boaz was part of the extended family and therefore had the responsibility to marry Ruth.

--Naomi is telling her to go claim Boaz as a kinsman redeemer.

--She's also doing a bit of matchmaking. Naomi is a stereotypical mother, being a matchmaker.

2. v.3: What does she tell Ruth to do?

- Wash
- anoint yourself
- put on your cloak
- go to the threshing floor where Boaz is

--She's telling her to make herself look pretty, dress nice, make sure you smell good.

--Naomi is setting Ruth up for a special date; it's a romance.

3. v.2b: Naomi tells Ruth to do this thing that very night even though it was a busy harvest time. Why not wait until later when there everyone was less busy?

- 2 Corinthians 6:2: "behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."
- if we put off getting right with God we might not do it.

4. Why would Ruth want to wait until Boaz was by himself in order to approach him? Why not do it in public?

- She wanted to get his attention.

--This is also a story of how we relate to Christ.

- Christians are the bride of Christ.
- we are poor
- we are foreigners in a strange land

--we are without hope
--Christ is our savior
--When you go to Christ, He always has time for just you.

--to be reconciled with Christ is like a romance;
Our salvation in Jesus is a sacred romance.

--Being with Jesus is a love relationship, a sacred romance where each day we fall more and more in love.

--Each day our great Lover brings us gifts and reminds us how much He loves us and how He wants to do good things for us.

--Like Ruth, we find gifts that our Lord has left us, special presents just for us.

5. Have you ever thought of Jesus like that?
Not in a human romantic way, but in a godly way.

--We talk about "God is love" and how we should "love Jesus with all our heart."

--Well, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?"

--This is a question each of us can ask ourselves: "Do we love Him?" and "Do we realize He loves us?"

6. Have you ever thought of our relationship to Christ as a "sacred romance?"

7. In what ways is our relationship to Christ a loving, romantic relationship?

--When people are in love, they enjoy learning more about the other person; they think about the other person all the time.

8. Do you enjoy learning about Jesus?
--if we spend time with Him, we will love him more.

9. When two young people fall in love, does someone have to command them to spend time with each other, to ask how the other is feeling, or to talk with them every day?

--No

--Love motivates people to want to spend time together

--Legalism has no place in a love relationship

--v.4: Naomi tells Ruth to go down to where they are threshing the grain and notice where Boaz is sleeping.

--It was barley harvest

--they would have had big piles of grain

--they would have been working long hours and would have had large piles of grain.

--they would sleep out next to the grain to keep it secure.

10. v.4: She tells him to uncover Boaz' feet. What would uncovering his feet do?

--wake him up

--The feet were considered a filthy part of the body; uncovering the feet and placing herself there is an act of submission; she is saying "I am your servant"

Read Ruth 3:6-13

--v.6: Ruth goes to where they are threshing the grain.

--v.7: She watches where he lays down to sleep.

Boaz is doing what all great leaders should do: stay right there with the work. A good lesson for any leader: do not be distant.

--Boaz was a plain man and not so haughty that he would not sleep in the field with the workers. He was probably working with them.

11. Why is it good for a leader to be close to the work?

--the leader identifies with the workers

--the leader shows he is willing to work

--He can make better decisions

--all the great military leaders were close to the battle

--She uncovers his feet.

--v.8-9: It's dark, and he asks "who are you?"

12. v.9: What does Ruth ask him?

--"spread your covering over"

--"spread your wings over"

--"for you are a redeemer"

--By uncovering his feet and asking him to cover her, she is asking him to take her under his covering.

13. What is she asking him?

--to do his duty to marry her

--to redeem her

14. Could Ruth have done any good work to earn the husband?

15. Can we do any good work to earn a relationship with Jesus?

--No

--All we must do is lay at the feet of Christ

--Note that Boaz first found Ruth in the field and knew about her, protected her, romanced her. But Ruth made the request to be his bride.

--Ruth asked Boaz to be her redeemer. He romanced her but did not come to her and insist that she become his bride.

--Boaz did not come to Ruth and change her into something else so he could marry her.

--Likewise Jesus finds us and knows about us. He gives us gifts and romances us. But we ask Him to be our redeemer. He does not insist.

--Jesus cried over Jerusalem and said He wanted to gather her under His wing but they were not willing. (Matthew 23:37)

16. Could Ruth have claimed just any man to marry her?

--No

--it had to be a "near kinsman"

- 17.** Can anyone be our redeemer? Why?
--No
--It has to be a sinless human
--Christ had to be human to redeem humanity
--The debt of all humankind could have only been paid by a human
--Jesus had to be a “near kinsman”
- 18.** What do you think about the way she asked him?
- 19.** Is it OK to be very direct? Was she too direct?
- 20.** How should we approach God when talking to Him?
Should we be direct?
- 21.** v.10: What does Boaz say to compliment her?
--“you have not gone after young men”
--Boaz knows all about Ruth
--Christ knows all about us
- 22.** What does this statement tell you about Ruth?
--Remember Ruth was young; she was a stranger.
--She had all the desires of every woman.
She was alone except for Naomi.
- 23.** What is the common worldly wisdom as to how to find a husband?
- 24.** Is it true in today’s culture that if a woman stays righteous and is not immoral that the right kind of man will notice?
--Yes
--Women do not have to chase after men or give themselves away
--Boaz says she has not been out chasing men.
- 25.** What message are young women being given in our day?

26. v.10: Boaz says “you have not gone after young men”
What does this tell us about Boaz?

--He’s been watching her

27. v.11c: “all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.”

--Do people around us notice how we act?

28. v.12: What does Boaz tell her?

--there is another family member who is closer to Ruth than Boaz

29. What does this statement tell us about Boaz?

--He has been thinking about their relationship; he has already thought about what needs to happen to marry Ruth

--v.13: Boaz makes a promise to Ruth. If the other man does not redeem her, he will.

30. Can we trust Boaz’ promise?

31. Can we trust Jesus’ promises?

--v.14: She lays there until almost morning when it would be safer for a woman to be traveling back to town.

--v.15: He gives her six measures of barley.

32. Did Ruth earn this barley or was it a gift?

--it was a gift

--Christ never ceases to give to us what we do not deserve.

--v.18: Naomi says that Boaz “will not rest” until he settles the matter.

--Luke 15:4: If God has 100 sheep, and one is lost, He will leave the 99 and “go after the one which is lost until he finds it.”

--v.18: Naomi tells Ruth to wait on Boaz.

33. Do we sometimes have to wait on the Lord?

--Yes

--We know He will do what is good for us but we don't know how long we will have to wait.

Ruth Chapters 4

Review

- Ruth and her mother in law Naomi were widowed and destitute.
- Ruth began gathering food near Jerusalem when she was noticed by Boaz.
- Boaz is a kinsman redeemer, someone who had the right and responsibility to marry the widow.
- Ruth has asked Boaz to fill this role and he has promised to make sure she gets married.

Read Ruth 4:1-6

- v.1: Boaz goes to the city gate and finds the other relative.
- v.2: He gets ten elders and got them to sit and watch the conversation.
 1. Why?
 - this was the method of officially recording it.
 - they didn't keep paper records at the courthouse like we do
 - they got witnesses who could remember what was said.
 - there is a biblical principle of having at least 2 or 3 witnesses; Boaz got 10 to make sure.
- Boaz does this the right way. Boaz is an honest man that wants to follow the law.
- v.3: he starts with the land
- The land of Israel was very important
- One reason God set up the families to stay together was to keep the land in the family.
 1. Why would it be important to keep the land in the family?
 2. If you were farmers and ranchers, what does the land provide the family?

- a permanent livelihood
- the family would center around the land

--also God promised the land to the descendants of Abraham forever.

This was one way of keeping it.

--When Elimilech went to Moab; there was a famine.

--Either:

- Naomi's husband Elimilech had already sold the rights to the land before he went to Moab, or

- Naomi was in the process of selling her right to the land because she had no heir.

--The land would return to his family in the year of jubilee, after 50 years, but that was likely after all the present people would be dead.

--To get the land back to Ruth, a redeemer would have to buy it, to pay to redeem it.

--Buying the land would also mean taking in Ruth, having children by her, and raising them up to inherit Elimilech's land.

--Buying it back is a picture of what Christ does for us.

--v.4: The man says he will redeem the land.

--v.5: Boaz says that if you get the land, you get Ruth and have to raise children by Ruth.

--Notice Boaz makes sure that the man knows that Ruth is a Moabite, a foreigner.

--v.6: The man says no, he can't redeem it because having more children would mess up his own inheritance.

- When he says it would "ruin my own inheritance" he is likely speaking of the land he received and will pass along to his children.

- He may have already had children who were supposed to get what land he had, and getting another heir would get in the way of that.

So the land and Ruth go to Boaz.

Read Ruth 4:7-12

--v.7: This verse is a clue as to the dating of the book.

--Note: "this was the custom in former (earlier) times"

--this would indicate that the book was written much later, after the events had happened.

--contrast that with Joshua that says that Rahab was still alive when it was written.

--it was still written prior to the time of Jesus, so the prophetic description of what Jesus does is profound.

--This book centers around the idea of redeeming.

What does it mean to redeem?

--to exchange

--If we have a coupon for a free item, if you have the coupon, you have the legal right to the item.

You merely have to redeem, or exchange, the coupon.

--So to redeem is to exchange or purchase

--Theologians have tried to figure out how we explain that Jesus died for our sins.

3. What is atonement?

--Because of our sin we are separated from God.

--Atonement is where we are reconciled to God and "made right" again.

4. What is redeeming (or redemption?)

--Redeem means to make an exchange or to buy back

--If you have a coupon you take it to the store and redeem the coupon to get the product

--The theologians have 9 different theories of how salvation works. Some of these include:

--Christ paid a ransom for us; remember in Judges it says God sometimes "sold" Israel after they disobeyed.

--Christ paid a debt owed to God.

--Christ is our substitute. He paid by taking the punishment that was ours.

--Here in Ruth it presents Christ as our redeemer.

5. How is Jesus our redeemer? How did Jesus redeem us?

--He paid the price

--He has the legal right to us

--1 Cor. 6:19: "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price"

--to the Christian, we are bought and paid for

--to the non-Christian, there is a debt that you will one day be asked to pay. You will not be able to pay the debt.

--What a great redeemer we have.

--Think of how special and loving Ruth must have felt.....she was an outcast, poor and destitute with no future. Gleaning for barley to stay alive.

--Then Boaz comes, falls in love, and redeems her.

6. How do you think Ruth must have felt?

--How great it is to have Jesus as a redeemer.

7. Can anyone give a personal testimony of what it is like to be redeemed?

8. Where would we be if Jesus had not redeemed us?

--The first man did not have enough wealth to keep his own land and redeem Ruth also.

9. Is our redeemer wealthy enough to redeem us?

--God is rich in mercy. (Ephesians 2:4)

--God is rich in grace (Ephesians 2:7)

- God is rich in glory (Romans 9:23)
- God says “every beast of the forest is mine and the cattle on a thousand hills.” (Psalm 50:10)

--Boaz proclaimed his promise publicly and sealed the contract. He could not go back on his word.

- 10.** Can our redeemer go back on His word, or has He made a public, binding promise?
- 11.** Boaz did everything correctly and properly. Does our Redeemer do everything correctly and properly?

--Boaz showed all signs of being loving and gentle to his bride, giving her gifts that she didn't deserve.

- 12.** Can we trust our Redeemer to be loving and gentle to us?
- 13.** Does our Redeemer shower us with gifts that we do not deserve?

Read Ruth 4:13-17

--this is a happy time for Naomi and Ruth.
--They were destitute, doomed to a life of poverty and rags, and loneliness in their old age. People without children die lonely and alone.
--until a man of great wealth and standing came along and took notice and redeemed them.
--Now they have a life of blessing, they have descendants and people to take care of them when grow old.
--Ruth knew none of this when she dedicated herself to taking care of Naomi merely because it was the right thing to do.

--When Ruth was redeemed:
--the entire community was happy for her.
--Not just Ruth but also Naomi was blessed.
--There were blessings that lasted for generations.

- 14.** When someone today comes to Christ, is there happiness both in heaven and on earth?
- 15.** When someone comes to Christ are other people blessed also? Do the blessings last for many generations?

Naomi and Ruth started as outsiders that were very poor. They were redeemed by the great wealthy man, and Ruth's son became the grandfather of the greatest king in Israel and in the line of the messiah.

--No material blessings can compare to the blessings of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi:

--a great loving marriage

--children and grandchildren

--These are things that money cannot buy.

--Before Boaz, Ruth and Naomi were poor, crying in misery, and with no hope for the future. Ruth told Naomi she would go home and die with her. All they had to look forward to was misery and death.

--Naomi told everyone to change her name to Mara, which means bitter.

--After Boaz, Ruth has a great loving husband, she cries in happiness, and had a great hope for the future.

--Naomi has a daughter and a grandson and a great future.

Let's compare the story of Ruth to a life knowing Jesus:

16. What do we have before Christ?

17. What do we have after Christ?

--Before Boaz, Ruth and Naomi were doomed to be forgotten as soon as they died, with no future. They would have died anonymously and been quickly forgotten, one of a long list of no-name people who are never remembered.

--After Boaz, Ruth and Naomi have a future on earth as well as being remembered by God, recorded in the Bible to be remembered for all eternity.

18. Before we meet Christ, what do we have to look forward to?

--eat, drink, then you die.

19. After we meet Christ, what do we have to look forward to?

- A future on earth doing God's work
- Being remembered by God
- Recorded in the book of life to be remembered for all eternity
- Blessings on earth and in heaven

--The book of Ruth also tells us great things about what to look for in a husband and a wife.

--If we look at the characteristics of Ruth and Boaz, we have great examples of future wives and husbands.

--Single people would do well to pick out the characteristics of Ruth and Boaz as examples of what to look for in a future spouse and how to act when they are dating.

--The book of Ruth ends with several verses of genealogy.

--This tells us that the story is not merely a religious story but true history.