

Have you **ever felt** like your life **was more** of a **“Mountain Road”** than a **“Freeway”**

In our lives - that **seem to be lived** **bouncing** from one **circumstance** to another

**Often**, it's **more like** we're traveling a **Twisty-Turny Mountain Road** than a **straight shot** on the **Freeway**

But here's the deal - **Freeway's** aren't designed **to get** to the top of **Mountain** - it takes a **Twisty-Turny** road to get up there

& every Corner is **UNCERTAIN** - & we **don't** know the **Purpose of all** those crazy **TWISTS & TURNS**

God **KNOWS** the **Reason** - & the **Purpose** for **Every Twist & Turn** . . .

**The Problem** is - He **doesn't offer** you an **Explanation** - He simply **calls you** to - **“Stay on the Road”**

& - **as we close** the **Book of Ruth** today

We're gonna **see a glimpse** of the God's **PLAN** - for the **Twisty-Turny** Road - that **Naomi**, & **Ruth**, & **Boaz** have been on

& **what I pray** you'll see today - is that **Naomi**, & **Ruth**, & **Boaz** Could **only deal** with the **next curve** - right in **front** of them

**But God** was doing **SO MUCH MORE** than they **ever knew**

They **couldn't see** the **Grand Design** - Or **The Plan** - Or the **Ultimate Destination** of the Road

They just made their choices - One TURN at a time

& as they made their choices - Doing what was right before God  
God was Doing MORE than they could EVER KNOW

& Guys - While WE are driving this Mountain Road of Life -  
We CAN'T See the Grand Design - Or the Ultimate Plan

But if we will TRUST God - & do what's RIGHT before Him  
God will be AT WORK - to Do MORE than WE could EVER KNOW

## Let's Pray

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We left our story - with Ruth being "Rightly Redeemed" by Boaz

& we tried to make it clear . . .

that AS Ruth was SECURE in HER being Redeemed by Boaz -  
So WE are SECURE in OUR being Redeemed by Jesus Christ

Boaz had done everything "Right" - He had Rightly & Legally  
Redeemed Ruth - all of that ending in Ch 4 v.10

& So we step right BACK into this picture - at the GATE of the City,  
where this legal transaction had occurred

& we pick up the events in Ruth 4:11 (esv)

*11 Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said,  
"We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman, who is coming  
into your house (Ruth), like Rachel and Leah, who together built  
up the house of Israel . . .*

It's interesting - **BOTH Rachel & Leah** were **BARREN** for some time  
& God had **Opened their Wombs** - to **allow them** to have children

& **those children** together became the **twelve tribes** of Israel

& **Ruth** - who'd **been married** for some time, & had **no children**  
**would need** this **same blessing** - for **her** to have a **child**

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Which **reminds me** of one of the **TWISTS** on my own "**Mountain Road**"

**Pam & I tried** unsuccessfully to **have a Baby** for **7 years**  
**before Danielle** was born

**During** that time we were part of a **small church** - & that **entire church**  
**prayed God** would **miraculously provide** a baby for us

& **all that time** we were **crying out** to God in faith - **God** was saying  
***OH, I have Children for you - MORE THAN YOU KNOW***

& **in His time** - after many **twists & turns** in the road  
& **after** our **faith** had been **greatly exercised**

God said - Not **ONE**, Not **TWO**, But **THREE children** for you -  
ALL **Back-to-Back** - & the **most wonderful kids** imaginable

**During** those **7 years** of our **Young Faith**  
**God** was **doing MORE than WE KNEW**

& **we** are **so grateful** to God  
for **the MORE** that He **had planned** all along

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& so the people pray that Ruth would be like Rachel & Leah who birthed the Tribes of Israel

& their prayer continues in V.11

*11 . . . May you act worthily* (prosper) *in Ephrathah* (EF-RATH, surrounding area) *and be renowned* (famous) *in Bethlehem,*

& then the people at the Gate pray another prayer over Boaz - & they had NO IDEA just how accurate their prayer was

Ruth 4:12 (esv)

*12 and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the Lord will give you by this young woman.”*

Perez was a Direct Ancestor to Boaz - Perez was born under somewhat similar circumstances, but with a pretty strange twist

It's a long & winding road back in Gen Ch 38

where Tamar ends up Pretending to be a Prostitute & sleeping with her Father-in-Law - Judah in order to continue the Family line

& Tamar's son was named PEREZ - & He was the Father of the Perezite Clan of the Tribe of Judah

Now - that's important - because King David was of the Perezite Clan of the Tribe of Judah

AND, there was one other Critical Member of the Perezite Clan of the Tribe of Judah - His Name - is Jesus Christ

& BOAZ - is Right in that Same Blood Line - of Perez - & Judah

So - when the people pray Boaz & Ruth's house be like  
the house of Perez - they HIT the Eternal NAIL on the Head

& what I really want you to Start to see here is . . .

There are ETERNALLY SIGNIFICANT things occurring  
in this Love Story between Boaz & Ruth

& I guarantee you - Boaz did NOT know  
the Eternal Significance of his Love & Actions toward Ruth

I think he was just BLOWN AWAY  
that he was going to get to marry this girl

But GOD was Doing SO MUCH MORE  
than Boaz Could EVER KNOW

& THAT is what's important for us to see here today

Boaz was doing what was RIGHT before God  
& God was At Work - doing FAR MORE  
than Boaz could EVER know

Let me REPEAT that

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& God WILL do the Same thing in OUR LIVES

If WE will just continue on that Twisty-Turny Mountain Road of Life

& at every turn - if we will just do what is Right before God,  
& continue to follow that Narrow Path

Then we can TRUST - That God will be AT WORK in our Lives  
doing Far More than we could ever Know

& He will take us thru every twist & thru every turn  
until, ultimately, He leads us to the Top of the Mountain

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& Now - In more of a "Minor Sense"  
Boaz's Mountain Top - is in the Next Verse

### Ruth 4:13 (ESV)

*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.*

After ALL that Ruth has BEEN THRU  
On her HONEYMOON Night - God gives her a Son

It was GOD at work - Bringing Ruth back to Bethlehem with Naomi

It was GOD at work - On that first day these two met in the field

It was GOD at work - When Boaz Chose to be Ruth's Redeemer

It was GOD at work - When Ruth Bore a Son

At EVERY step - & In EVERY Place - GOD was AT WORK  
Doing Far MORE than RUTH could Ever KNOW

THIS moment - &, more importantly, the years to come  
could NEVER have been imagined by RUTH

Ruth had simply been doing what was RIGHT Before God  
& Thru it all - God was Doing MORE than she could ever know

& God will do the same thing with YOU & ME

**If we will make our Commitment of FAITH -  
& ATTACH ourselves to GOD - Just as RUTH Did**

**If we will continue to CLING to Him around every TWIST,  
& around every TURN - of this Mountain Road of a life**

Then we will be able to TRUST - that God will be At Work  
Doing MORE than We could ever KNOW

**THAT is what God has done for Ruth  
& THAT is what God will do for US - if we will follow Him in Faith**

He will be At Work - Doing MORE than We could ever KNOW

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**But NOW - What about that Nay-saying, Depressed, Bitter,  
Mother-In-Law - - - NAOMI**

**How does this all work out for her ??**

**Remember - Naomi had nothing but Negative  
& Depressing things to say about God**

& she wanted to change her name to MARA  
which means BITTERNESS

So - How'd things work out - for "Negative Naomi" ?

**Ruth 4:14 (esv)**

***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!"***

**The focus here - suddenly SHIFTS to Naomi**

& **Notice** - it's **the WOMEN** talking to her

& **I'm sure** These are the **SAME women Naomi** was **complaining** to when **she first came** into **town**

& **now** - a **Year Later** - **they're saying** to Naomi -

***"Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel!***

**They're speaking** of **the Child** Ruth & Boaz are **going to have** & **personally** - I think they're **trying** to **Make a POINT** to Naomi

***"Hey, Ms Bitterness - The Lord has NOT left you without a Redeemer - Like you ACCUSED Him of . . .***

***He HAS indeed Given you a REDEEMER***

They're **speaking here** of **the son Ruth** is going to **have** - & **I think** they're **Reminding Naomi** - **WHO** her God is

**& they continue in Ruth 4:15 (esv)**

***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."***

**Naomi** - this **Grandson** is going to be a **A RESTORER** of Life for you & he's gonna **CARE for you** in your old age

No More **MARA** - No more **Bitterness**, **Resentment**, or **Questioning**

**Naomi** - **Don't you feel** just a **LITTLE BIT FOOLISH** for **your behavior** toward **God**



**When** you **told Ruth** it was **better** for her to **go back**  
into the **unsaved** world of **Moab** - **than follow** the **God** of Israel ???

**When** you **wanted** to **change your name** to **Bitterness** ???

**When** you **claimed** that God had **made you EMPTY**  
& You **Implied** He **didn't care** about **you** any more ???

**NAOMI** - you were **just in** a **Dark Tunnel** on the **Mountain Road**

& **Sometimes** - there **MUST** be **TUNNELS**  
**in order** for God to **get you** where you're **going**

& it **seems so dark** in there -  
& **at times** you think **the darkness** will **overtake** you

But **NAOMI** - **What about God ?**

Do you **really think** He'd **put you** in a **tunnel** to **NOWHERE** ?

**Is that** as **HIGH an opinion** of **Him** as you **HAVE** ??  
**Is that** the **BEST that you** think of **Him** ??

**That** He would **send you**  
into a **DARK Tunnel** that leads to **NOWHERE** ??

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**NAOMI** - By God's **GRACE** - He has **brought you** thru

But **the Journey could've** meant **so much more**  
**if you would've** Travelled it **in FAITH** instead of **in DOUBT**

**God** is **still so good** to us  
**even** when we're **Driving** in **DOUBT** like Naomi

But the Drive is Far More meaningful -  
& Far More beneficial to those with us

When we Drive that road in FAITH instead of DOUBT

*“Lord, I put my full & complete faith in you - you are my God, & I trust you. & I know this tunnel leads to light on the other side.”*

THAT is the “Navigational Faith” of RUTH

Ruth was IN the Tunnel WITH Naomi - But She was trusting GOD  
to bring her thru to the other side - *Which He definitely did*

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& So - For Naomi - God was Definitely Doing SO MUCH MORE  
than she could EVER IMAGINE

There was SO MUCH that Naomi thought God was doing TO her  
when Really God was doing so much FOR her

But Now - On the other side of that Tunnel  
Naomi wanted to KEEP the Original name God had given her

Naomi means *“Delightful - Pleasant”*  
& in the next Verse Naomi RECLAIMS her NAME

Ruth 4:16-17(a) (esv)

*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.” . . .*

Naomi became her Grandson’s Care-Giver -  
& so the Women said - *“A son has been born to Naomi.”*

**Referring to the fact that this son would grow up to  
Care for Naomi & for the Family Line**

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***HMMM* - Things had worked out Substantially Differently  
than Naomi had thought - Hadn't they?**

**Twists & Turns - Some Real Uphill's & some Scary Downhill's**

But thru it all - God had been Doing So Much MORE  
than Naomi could ever IMAGINE

& if YOU are a Believer today  
& you have a Tendency to LEAN to Naomi's Attitude

**Please hear me - God is doing so much MORE  
than you can ever Imagine**

**Trust Him - & STAY on the Narrow Road  
He will ultimately bring you - OUT of that Tunnel**

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**& so - cont'g in V. 17**

***17 . . . They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the  
father of David.***

Now - wait a minute - We thought this was a love story  
between Ruth & Boaz

& we thought ALSO - this was a picture  
of the Love that OUR Redeemer has for us

**But in the Midst of ALL of THAT - Ruth & Boaz's Son  
Becomes the Father of JESSE - Who is the Father of DAVID**

Just How much MORE was God doing in the Midst of this Story ?

Well - IN, THRU, & BEYOND All of the other things  
God was doing with Naomi & Ruth & Boaz . . .

Thru it ALL - Ruth & Boaz's son  
becomes the GRANDFATHER of the Great King David

Beyond ALL we could see - God had an EVEN BIGGER PLAN

IN the Midst of ALL of the Book - God was AT WORK  
Doing MORE than We could Imagine

God is the ONLY One - Who has the ENTIRE Plan

& He is the ONLY One Who ultimately KNOWS  
Where this Road is going

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& How Much MORE is He doing -  
that we Can't Possibly Understand ??

Well - Let's see how the writer of the book tries to Convey  
How much MORE God was really doing here

### Ruth 4:18-22 (esv)

*18 Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron,*

*19 Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab,*

*20 Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,*

*21 Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed,*

*22 Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.*

Remember we referred to Judah's son Perez

& we said the Perez Clan of the Tribe of Judah was Special

**Because our True & Ultimate Redeemer  
comes from this Clan, & from this Tribe**

So the **Book of Ruth closes** out with a **ROADMAP**  
**Half way up a Mountain**

& **here** we see the **twists & turns** of **God's Road**  
to **get** from **Judah, & Perez** - to **King David**

Because **THIS** - is the **Royal Line of Judah - the Line** from which  
**King David** - **AND Jesus Christ** - would be **born**

& **Every name** is a **Twist or Turn** in **the Road**  
**Some names** riding **the Crest** of the **Mountain**  
**Some names** deep in the **Dark Tunnels**

But **when** you **connect** all **the names**  
you have a **perfect Road map** - to **King David**, & then - **to Christ**

From **Perez** - to **Hezron** - to **Ram** - to **Amminadab** - to **Nahshon** -  
to **Salmon** - to **Boaz** . . .

& there - at **Boaz** - A **Moabite girl, an outsider**, needs **to get**  
**on this road**, & **have Boaz** fall in love with her

Because **God** wants **ANOTHER Gentile, Another Outsider**,  
in **the Blood line** of **Christ**

So we "**Drop In**" the **story of Ruth** - & all **its lessons**

But **thru it all** - God is **connecting** the road from **JUDAH**  
to a **shepherd boy** named **DAVID** - Israel's **greatest KING**

**Until the One** Who is called **David's Greater Son**  
**takes the Throne** - & **His name** is **Jesus Christ**

& God's Road is perfectly designed to get from the Tribe of Judah to the LION of the Tribe of Judah . . .

Our Kinsman Redeemer - Jesus Christ

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Can you see that God is Doing TOO MUCH here for us to even begin to GRASP?

Can you see that God is doing more here than any of these people could possibly KNOW ??

Can you believe - that God is doing MORE in YOUR Life than YOU can possibly KNOW ??

Then - Can you TRUST Him?

Can you Stay on the Narrow Path, thru all the Twists & Turns?

Can you DO what's RIGHT - & Trust Him to bring you thru?

Can you Trust that God is DOING MORE THAN YOU KNOW ?

We've got to TRUST Him for the things We Can't See  
& We've got to TRUST Him for the things We'd Rather Change

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I believe the Primary PURPOSE of the Book of Ruth is to point us to our Kinsman Redeemer - Jesus Christ

& I pray that you have been "Pointed to Him"

& I pray that you have come to him, Humbly,  
& asked Him to REDEEM you - *or, I pray you'd do that today*

But to close the book of Ruth - I think we have a good REMINDER  
that we are on a TWISTY & TURNY Road

We can't see what's up ahead - We DON'T Understand WHY  
the Road Turns & Twists the way it does

But we CAN know This - God is AT WORK  
DOING MORE THAN WE KNOW

He sees every Twist, & every Turn

& He's already AT WORK - Up Ahead  
DOING MORE THAN WE KNOW

& if we will do what's right - right now,  
& trust that God is at work up ahead

He will Not only Bring us thru -

But He will Accomplish Far More than we could ever ask or think

Let me close with Eph 3:20 (NLT)

*20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

Your God is ABLE - thru His Mighty Power at work within you  
to Accomplish Infinitely MORE than you can ask of think

Trust Him - Stay on the Road - HE is AT WORK  
DOING MORE THAN YOU KNOW

Let's Pray