

Lesson 3: Like Jesus, Boaz demonstrates his kindness and love by redeeming Ruth, - rescuing her from trouble, giving her life, and making her his bride.

I. Remember: Where are we? How did we get here? (chapters 1 + 2)

1. Naomi: went away full, ~~and~~ but returned to Bethlehem empty (ch. 1)

→ Elimelech sinned, and his family felt the disciplinary consequences.

i. Death.

ii. Despair.

2. Ruth went away empty, but returned full (ch. 2)

→ God loves to provide for his children - those who set themselves under the wings of the Lord.

i. Ruth ate until she was full, and had some left-overs.

ii. God provided a possible redeemer to fight her cause and ~~provide~~ provide her with restoration and long-lasting hope: a REDEEMER (v. 20)

----- Will ~~the~~ Boaz redeem Ruth? How will this process play out? What will that mean for Ruth?-----
----- What will that mean for us? How do the ~~the~~ blessings of redemption -----
----- impact and affect my day-to-day life w/ God + others? -----

II. Three ^{realities} ~~truths~~ of redemption ^{that} radically changed Ruth's life and fortunes. Three ~~the~~ realities that will radically change yours too.

1. Boaz rescues Ruth from trouble. Jesus, the greater redeemer, rescues you from your trouble.

2. Boaz ~~restores~~ restores Ruth and her line to life. Jesus, the greater redeemer, fills us with new life.

3. Boaz ~~loved~~ loved Ruth ~~as~~ as his bride, with an unwavering commitment. Jesus, the greater redeemer, loves the his people (the Church) as his bride - with an unwavering commitment.

III. Read vv. 1-5: Naomi's counsel is old, wordless, and foolhardy.

1. Her natural inclination, like her late husband's, is to actively seek her own well-being, even when doing so might injure her and others.

→ I Her advice was risky. It was rash. It was a misguided way of getting what she wants.

~~II~~ ii. "We must not totally misjudge Naomi. She has a sense of what God ~~might be doing~~ ^{is doing} providential purposes might be. But hunches about what God is doing should not be turned into schemes by which we engineer circumstances to bring those circumstances to pass in an accelerated way." - Sinclair Ferguson.

IV. Read vv. 6-9: Ruth follows Naomi's counsel, leading us to a pivotal point in time... AT MIDNIGHT!

1. Ruth makes the request that Boaz "spread his wings over her". That he would protect her in the same way God has. Some language ~~as~~ Boaz used about her in 2:12.

2. BUT ~~she was~~ by following Naomi's advice, Ruth has exposed herself to great risk.

V. Read vv. 10-17: How will Boaz respond to Ruth? Will he take advantage of her circumstances. OR will he show her ~~some~~ great love?

1. Boaz first words and actions showed remarkable poise and integrity.

→ Instead of taking advantage of the situation, Boaz quickly showed his character. When he woke up at mid-night with a woman in his bed, he responded with faithfulness to God. He thinks and acts Biblically.
i. Who are you when you wake up at midnight?

2. Boaz calmed Ruth down and proved his commitment to his word.

→ Comically, Ruth once again went away empty, but returned full (vv. 14-17). I can't help but think that Boaz was playing a joke on Naomi by knowing what Naomi was hoping for and sending Ruth home with MOLE barley.

V. Read vv. 1-6: Ruth's (and Naomi's) situation is dire. Molebites are not attractive to have in the inheritance.

1. Ruth is in real trouble. ~~It~~ The closer relative's reaction is expected. They are destined to live life as beggars.

VI. Read vv. 7-12: Boaz agrees to redeem Ruth! In doing so...

1. Boaz rescues Naomi + Ruth from their trouble!

→ No longer beggars. No longer castaways. No longer lost, broken, alone.

→ He replaces their trouble with safety + provision!

2. Boaz restores Ruth's line to life!

→ Because of this redemption, the name of Elimelech and all good plans to do through that line is preserved!

→ He replaces death with life!

3. Boaz takes Ruth as his wife, showing an unwavering commitment to his word of protection, provision, and preservation.

→ Ruth is his wife, the focus of his love, and recipient of his blessings.

→ He replaces loneliness with a covenant-partner.

VIII. Jesus: The Greater Redeemer treats us the very same way.

→ As a caveat, I need to tell you that ~~the~~ the story of Ruth is not allegorical. It's not that Boaz is actually Jesus and Ruth is actually you. ^{→ He's fallen} But we do learn alot about ~~the~~ the way Jesus loves us by the way Boaz treats Ruth. And his redemption of us is much more sweet, b/c it is eternal.

1. Jesus rescues us from our trouble.

→ We were stuck, in debt before the lord of the universe, but he paid my debt, rescuing us from ~~certain~~ trouble!

→ Have you been rescued?

2. Jesus ~~res~~ fills us with life.

→ We were dead. We were in need of new life. By raising to life, Jesus gave us real, abundant life!

→ Do you have life?

3. Jesus loves his people like a groom loves his bride - with an unwavering commitment.

→ As his bride, we can rest in his protection, enjoy his provision, and trust his guidance.

→ Have you ~~not~~ rest in his unwavering commitment?