Welcome To Providence: Week 4
Redemption Changes Everything

Ruth Chapter 4 | Week 4

Overview

This final chapter of Ruth brings the entire story to its culmination. What began with famine, loss, and emptiness ends with a wedding, a birth, and a genealogy that points to something far greater than any of the characters could have imagined. This session explores how redemption comes at a cost, brings restoration, and is always part of a bigger story than we can see.

Key Takeaways

- **Redemption comes at a cost.** Boaz willingly paid a price to secure Ruth's future. In the same way, our redemption through Christ was not free -- it cost Jesus his life.

- **Redemption brings restoration.** Naomi went from empty to holding new life in her arms. God is a God who restores, though not always on our timeline or in the ways we expect.

- **God is writing a bigger story.** Ruth had no idea she would become the great-grandmother of King David or an ancestor of Jesus. Her faithfulness in ordinary moments was woven into God's extraordinary redemptive plan.

- **We do not have to understand everything God is doing in order to trust him.** Ruth simply did the next right thing each day, and God worked through that faithfulness in ways she could never have imagined.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Think about a time when you looked back on a difficult season and could see, in hindsight, that God was at work in ways you did not recognize at the time. What did that reveal to you about his character?

Redemption Comes at a Cost

2. In the sermon, the unnamed relative -- referred to as "so-and-so" -- walked away because the cost was too great. What does it say about Boaz that he was willing to step in and pay that cost? What does this picture tell us about what Jesus has done for us?

3. The sermon drew a contrast between offering kindness and taking genuine responsibility. Boaz moved from one to the other. In your own relationships, what does it look like to move beyond casual kindness toward real, costly commitment?

4. Read 1 Peter 1, verses 18 and 19, where Peter describes how God paid a ransom to save us -- not with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ. How does understanding the cost of your redemption affect the way you live day to day?

Redemption Brings Restoration

5. Naomi described herself as empty when she returned to Bethlehem. By the end of the story, she is holding a child who represents her family's future. Have you ever been in a season where you felt like Naomi -- unable to see any way forward? What helped you hold on?

6. The sermon was honest that not every loss is restored on this side of heaven. How do we hold both truths at the same time -- that God is a God who restores AND that some things will not be made right until eternity? How does that tension affect your faith?

7. The sermon said: "We often see what's happening in our lives right now and we make assumptions about what God is doing based entirely on what we can see." Where in your life right now might you be making assumptions about God based on incomplete information?

God Is Writing a Bigger Story

8. Ruth had no idea what God was working toward through her ordinary, daily faithfulness. She was just trying to get enough food to survive. How does that challenge the way you think about the significance of your own everyday choices and faithfulness?

9. The genealogy at the end of Ruth is described in the sermon as the entire point of the story. Why do you think God chose to work through a foreign widow and an ordinary

farmer rather than through kings and prophets to accomplish something so significant?

10. The sermon noted that the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew chapter 1 includes women like Ruth and Rahab -- outsiders, people with complicated pasts. What does that tell us about who God includes in his story and who is welcome in his family?

Personal Reflection

11. The sermon closed with this question: Have you experienced redemption for yourself? Not just knowing the story, but personally placing your faith in Jesus. How would you answer that question? Is there anything standing between you and taking that step?

12. For those who have already placed their faith in Christ, the sermon encouraged not losing sight of what we have been redeemed for -- not just a set of religious activities, but an ongoing, daily relationship with God. How would you describe the current state of that relationship? What might need to change?

Practical Applications

This week, choose one of the following:

- **Practice daily faithfulness.** Identify one area of your life where you have been waiting for clarity before taking action. Commit this week to simply doing the next right thing in that area and trusting God with the outcome.

- **Look back before you look forward.** Set aside time this week to write down two or three moments in your past where you can now see God was at work even when you could not see it at the time. Share one of those moments with your group or with someone close to you.

- **Examine the cost.** Reflect honestly on whether there is a relationship, a commitment, or a responsibility in your life where you have been the unnamed relative -- unwilling to step in because the cost felt too high. Pray and ask God what faithful, costly love might look like in that situation.

- **Sit with the genealogy.** Read Matthew chapter 1, verses 1 through 17 slowly. Notice the names, the unexpected people, the broken stories woven into the lineage of Jesus. Let it remind you that no one is outside the reach of God's redemptive work -- including you.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your time together by praying specifically for:

- Anyone in the group who is in a season of loss or uncertainty, that they would be able to trust God's character even when they cannot understand their circumstances
- Eyes to see the ways God is at work in the ordinary details of daily life
- The courage to live faithfully even when the results are not immediately visible
- Anyone who has not yet personally placed their faith in Christ

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"We don't have to understand everything that God is doing in order to trust him. We can be faithful with what's in front of us. We can trust him when life is uncertain." -- Pastor Todd