

Ruth's Redemption: The Greatest Love Story of All Time

Pastor Doyle & Jennifer, Pastor Doug, & Master

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Ruth was just like you and me. She experienced loss, sorrow and suffering. She knew a broken heart, struggled as a stranger and wept along her journey. ~ Jennifer Jackson

Judges 17:6 (NIV) **6** In those days, Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

Ruth 1:4-5 (NIV) **4** They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth after they had lived (dwelt) there about ten years, **5** both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

1. How is our contemporary culture like the time of Ruth and the Judges? How have you suffered and how did you welcome God along the road of your suffering? Why do Godly and sincere Christians sometimes experience what seems like "cruel and unusual" suffering?

Ruth 1:16-18 (NIV) **16** But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. **17** Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." **18** When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

2. When and how did you choose God over the gods of this world? What are your "I Will" statements?

Ruth 3:5 (NIV) **5** 'I will do whatever you say,' Ruth answered.

Ruth 2:1-3 (NIV) **1** Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing whose name was Boaz. **2** And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." **3** Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in the field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

3. With whom are you in an unshakable commitment? How do you put action behind your words of devotion to God or others?

Ruth 2:12 (NIV) **12** May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.

Ruth 2:14-17 (NIV) **14** At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. **15** As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her. **16** Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her." **17** So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah.

Ruth 2:20 (NIV) "The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."

4. Share a time in your life when God was your portion, protection or REDEMPTION.

Communion

Ruth 4:9-10 (NIV) **9** Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. **10** I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"

Psalms 49:15 (NIV) But God will redeem my life from the grave; he will surely take me to himself.

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV) In Him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

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