



# ruth

## KEY THOUGHTS

- In Ruth 3, as the story unfolds, as we lay the story over the gospel of Jesus, multiple truths shine through.
- Ruth 1:20-21 – Ruth returns home to Israel empty.
- **1. Your emptiness is a part of the gospel over your life.**
  - Whatever hardship you may be facing now, don't discount God's use of it to draw you to Him.
- We see in chapter 3 the vulnerability of Ruth, the planning of Naomi, and the integrity and kindness of both Ruth and Boaz.
- **2. God's kindness defies description.**
  - Multiple places in Ruth we see kindness shown (God's kindness in 1:8, Boaz' kindness to Ruth in 2:20, and Ruth's kindness to Boaz in 3:20). The Hebrew word for kindness, *hesed*, is rich in meaning, relating to compassion, forgiveness, benevolence, forbearance, patience, and more. God's kindness is so much deeper than our simple word.
- **3. The gospel is far-reaching.**
  - Ruth is regularly referred to as the Moabitess. The Moabites weren't simply enemies of Israel, but even their beginning (Genesis 19:30-37) is loaded with scandal. That's Ruth's lineage, and then she was enfolded into the people of God.
- **4. Don't underestimate the power of small steps.**
  - We find last verses of Ruth, in Ruth 4:21-22, that she became included in the genealogy of king David. Her "small step" of kindness to Boaz was not so small after all. It put her in a position where God used her in powerful ways.
  - Then in Matthew 1:5-6, as Matthew recounts this genealogy, we see Ruth mentioned by name, as well as Rahab (Boaz' mother!). These women, though "outsiders", because of small faithful steps became included in the lineage of Jesus Himself!
- **5. Our cost of redemption is similar, yet unequalled.**
  - Jesus told us in John 15:13 that greater love has NO ONE than he lay down his life for a friend. And yet there is a greater love that Jesus showed, though we wouldn't. Romans 5:8 states that God showed His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. That's an entirely different level of redemption (buying back)

## SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 19:30-37
- Ruth 3
- John 15:13
- Romans 5:8

## Practical & Reflection

- What "small step" is the Lord guiding me to take in my own redemption story? Will I take that step, even if I'm not sure it's that important?