

Ruth
Holy Moments
Week #3: 12/14/25

Scripture

The Book of Ruth / Matt. 1:1-6

Review

Week 1: Tamar (Yikes...)

Week 2: Rahab (Labels are bad...)

Week 3: Ruth (Sigh of relief...)

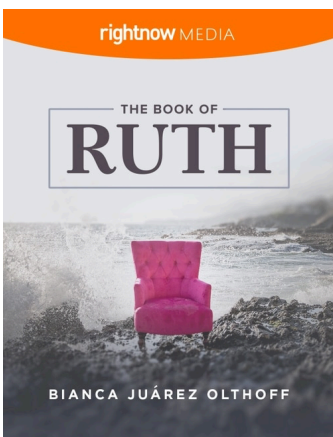
Week 4: Bathsheeba (And good feeling gone...)

Matthew 1:5-6

⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king.

Introduction

Ruth - The book that is marketed wrong...



This book isn't a chick-flick - it's placed where it is in the Scriptures for us to see the contrast between Boaz, and the men in the stories in Judges.

- Sampson - the womanizer
- The Levite who cared not for his daughter and his concubine
- etc.

Ruth reveals to us a God who is at work in the ordinary, the mundane, the messiness of everyday life.

Ruth is the Bible story we need to read when we feel that God is:

- Distant
- Silent
- Blind to your situation
- Disengaged
- Uninterested

In the book of Ruth, God is not a visible character in the story. He is the one behind the scenes moving the whole time.

- No miracles
- No prophets
- No bad guys even!
- Just God's divine providence moving like a rip-current
 - Rip current is hard to see but will move you out deeper into the ocean without even knowing it
 - Today, we get to look for God in the most unexpected places.

Motivation

Today, you need your Bible. If you don't have one, share with a neighbor!
We are going to read together ***the entire*** book of Ruth.

Why?

- If we believe that the Scriptures are the very Word of God, and we believe that The Holy Spirit dwells within each of us who have put our Faith in Jesus Christ for His finished work on our behalf on the cross...
 - Then shouldn't people hear more of God speaking than man?
- The traditional "sermon" as it is thought of today is actually a modern era pattern.
 - The public reading of large amounts of Scripture was way more common before
 - Remember when Jesus preached at his home town synagogue (Luke 4:16-22)?
 - He read from Isaiah 61, and then sat down...only to tell those listening that Isaiah wrote that about HIM
 - Or Remember in the book of Nehemiah, Ezra read "*The Law of Moses*" to all the people all day? (Nehemiah 8)

- I thought today we would take the opportunity to outweigh my own words with God's... His words are better than mine.
 - ...And I'll throw some of mine in there too for free 😊

Ruth 1:1

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

By the end of Judges, your stomach is sick. It's a terribly dark time in Israel.

Judges 21:25

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Particularly noticeable in the last several chapters of Judges is the utter abuse and disregard for women...

As we enter the scene of Ruth, we are put immediately into the context of the time of the judges - a time that is particularly dangerous to be a woman.

- Especially a woman without a man...

Read Ruth 1:1-18

Ruth 1:15-18

*¹⁵ And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and **to her gods**; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. **Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.** ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.*

1. When you feel God is *distant*...

Look for His provision.

When we are hurting, we tend to want to retreat and distance ourselves, but Naomi needed Ruth, even though she kept trying to push her away.

Look for the hurting that are withdrawing, and remind them that **you aren't going anywhere**.

Look for those who come around you even when you're being distant, **they're often the hand and feet of Jesus - a hug from God**.

The word, “*hesed*” appears 3 times in this little book. We’ve talked quite a bit about “hesed” but maybe we didn’t recognize it right away in this book. We clearly see the themes of hesed flowing through the whole book, but the word “love” doesn’t show up anywhere in this love story...

In this case, the word is translated as “kindness” all 3 times.
Remember in the past when we’ve talked about this word it means “***loyal loving kindness***”.

Continue Ruth 1:19-22

Have you ever made a difficult decision?

Car? Spouse? House? Job? Etc. - *Did I make the right decision?*

Ruth didn’t just choose Naomi (Ms. *Bitter*) over a possible future husband and family...

She chose Israel (remember - time of the judges - yikes!) over Moab...

Most importantly, **She chose God over her gods...**

2. When God is silent...

Continue to pursue Him

Read Ruth 2:1-23

Boaz was a noble man. He was a good man, on the clock and off the clock.

While other men *during the time of the judges* were taking advantage of women, abusing and disregarding them as valuable - Boaz **saw** Ruth, protected and provided for her.

Why? Not because he thought she was pretty...

Because He loved God, and over his lifetime, God had done a work inside of him so that the way he saw reality was different than the way others saw it.

He saw her loyalty - her steadfast love for Naomi, and that was precious in his sight.

3. When it seems that God does not see...

Live with integrity

Both Boaz and Ruth display incredible integrity in their dealings with those around them.

Read Ruth 3:1-18

There are many moments in my life when I felt that God certainly could have snapped His fingers and fixed my problems, and He didn't. Therefore, I felt that He was inactive. Disengaged.

However, looking back, I can see how He was working on things I didn't know about - and if I would only be patient, and wait, I would soon see Him move.

Not on my time, or in my way (literally never my way). But always in the **best** way.

4. When it seems that God is disengaged...

Wait on Him.

One thing I had not thought about before is how long **Boaz** had to wait. He was still single at this point and not a young man anymore (v. 10.). He wasn't chasing a mate, he was waiting on God - living with integrity, pursuing God, and looking for His provision in the dry, mundane, everyday walk of life.

The farm. The workers. The people he could help. Taking care of what was right in front of him while he waited to see what God would do.

Ruth likewise was not chasing a mate, but was waiting on God - living with integrity, caring for her mother-in-law. Taking care of what needed to be done today while she waited to see what God would do.

Read Ruth 4:1-17

Everybody loves a "and they lived happily ever after", but we seem to not get very many of those anymore. Perhaps it's because we feel that it's unrealistic, or too easy.

And while I'm sure there are many issues that Ruth and Boaz faced together that we are not told about, it doesn't change the fact that the story was brought to a satisfying conclusion.

5. When it seems that God is uninterested...

Refocus on His story

Many times when we feel that God doesn't care, it's because we are too focused on the immediate and not enough on the eternal.

God is always working, but His priority is not our happiness - His priority is the redemption of mankind.

Sometimes God is working, not only for **your** good, but for the good of others through your story.

In Close

Read Ruth 4:18-22

Ruth clung to Naomi, and chose her people, and her God. And through her choice, God brought about the birth of the King.

God showed up large in the midst of the small.

God got His knees dirty playing in the sand of the lives of these individuals who didn't even know what God was doing.

Pray to Close