



The Announcement PT. III | Ruth | Mark Allen | 12.14.25

Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer: Begin by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share the story behind your name. Do you know what your name means? How do you think names shape identity?

Sermon Overview

This message explores the book of Ruth as a masterpiece of God's redemptive love. Through the meaning of names and the unfolding story, we see how seeking pleasure outside of God leads to death and bitterness, but when we allow Christ (our Kinsman Redeemer) to restore us, it produces worship and new life.

KEY POINTS FROM THE SERMON

1. **Making God King** requires three things:
 - Believing that He exists
 - Believing that He is our provider
 - Seeking Him with all our hearts

2. The Danger of Seeking Pleasure Over God

- Elimelech ("My God is King") married Naomi ("Pleasure")
- Their sons: Mahlon ("Sick") and Chilion ("Pining Away")
- When we seek pleasure outside of God, it brings tragedy and death

3. The Power of Commitment vs. Surface Love

- Orpah ("Fawn"/superficial love) turned back
- Ruth ("Beauty") committed fully: "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God"

4. The Kinsman Redeemer

- Boaz ("Strength") represents Jesus
- He notices, provides for, and ultimately redeems Ruth
- When Beauty marries Strength, it restores life and produces worship

5. Complete Redemption

- We don't need to keep "going back to the fields"
- Jesus paid the full price—past, present, and future sins
- We're in the household of the King forever

Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Story

1. What stood out to you most from the book of Ruth? Had you noticed the significance of the names before?
2. Pastor Mark mentioned that "judges were never intended to rule, but to judge right from wrong." What was happening in Israel during this time, and how did it lead to famine?

3. Why do you think God included a Moabite woman (a foreigner) in the lineage of Jesus? What does this tell us about God's heart?

Personal Reflection

4. Pastor Mark said, "When my God is King marries pleasure, it brings death and bitterness." Can you think of a time when seeking pleasure or happiness outside of God led to disappointment or pain in your life or someone else's?
5. Ruth said to Naomi: "Where you go, I will go...Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God." What does this level of commitment look like in our relationship with Christ today?
6. Naomi told people to call her "Mara" (bitter) instead of "Naomi" (pleasure). Have you ever experienced a season where circumstances made you feel bitter? How did God meet you in that place?

Applying Truth

7. Pastor Mark emphasized that we must believe God is our provider, not our job or circumstances. In what areas of your life do you struggle to trust God as your provider?
 8. Boaz said to Ruth, "I've been watching...I've seen and heard the things that you have done." How does it encourage you to know that Jesus sees everything you're going through?
 9. Pastor Mark mentioned that some Christians keep "inviting Jesus 150 times" because they don't believe His redemption is complete. Why do you think believers struggle to accept the completeness of Christ's redemption?
 10. Ruth happened to come to Boaz's field. The sermon suggested nothing "just happens" in a believer's life. Can you share a time when God orchestrated circumstances in your life that seemed like coincidence but were clearly divine?
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Key Takeaways

- **God's Word is a masterpiece** written for us, with depth and beauty that transforms lives
 - **Seeking pleasure outside of God** always leads to tragedy, death, and bitterness
 - **True commitment to Christ** means going all in, not just surface-level faith
 - **Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer** who sees us, provides for us, and pays our full price
 - **Redemption is complete**—we don't need to keep going back to earn what's already been given
 - **When we marry Christ (Beauty marries Strength), it produces worship** in our lives.
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Practical Applications

This Weeks Challenge:

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. **Daily Seeking:** Commit to seeking God first thing each morning this week. Ask Him, "What do You want to show me today?" and journal what He reveals.
 2. **Gratitude Practice:** Like Ruth gleaning in the fields, practice recognizing God's provision. Each day, write down three ways God provided for you (big or small).
 3. **Examine Your Fields:** Identify one area where you've been "gleaning in the fields" (trying to provide for yourself) instead of resting in Christ's complete provision. Surrender it to Him.
 4. **Worship Response:** Spend intentional time in worship this week, thanking Jesus for being your Redeemer. Remember: when Beauty marries Strength, it produces worship (Obed).
 5. **Share Your Story:** Like Ruth's story became famous, share with someone this week how Jesus has redeemed an area of your life.
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MEMORY VERSE

Ruth 1:16 (NASB) "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back 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."

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray Together:

- Thank God for being our Kinsman Redeemer who paid the full price
 - Ask God to reveal areas where we're seeking pleasure instead of Him
 - Pray for complete trust in God as our provider
 - Ask for hearts that produce worship because of what Christ has done
 - Pray for anyone in the group struggling with guilt or feeling they need to "earn" God's love again
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Looking Ahead

Before next week, read through the entire book of Ruth (it's only 4 chapters!). Notice the details the pastor mentioned and see what else God reveals to you in this beautiful story.

Closing Question:

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you today through this study?

Leader Notes

- Create a safe space for vulnerability—some may share about seeking pleasure in wrong places
- Be prepared to explain the concept of "kinsman redeemer" if needed (a family member who had the right and responsibility to redeem property or marry a widow to preserve the family line)
- Have tissues available—this message about complete redemption can be emotional for those carrying guilt
- Consider having someone prepared to pray with anyone who needs to receive Christ or recommit their life
- Emphasize grace throughout—this message is about freedom, not condemnation