

August 5 & 6, 2017



### There are three love stories in the book of Ruth

1. The love between Ruth and Boaz
2. The Love of God for All People
3. The Love of Christ for Each of Us

### The love between Ruth and Boaz

#### Ruth 1: The death of a dream

Ruth 1:1 *In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, . . .*

1. Elimelech, Naomi and two sons were “refugees” from Bethlehem in Moab.
2. Naomi’s husband died in Moab.
3. Naomi’s sons married Moabites and they died.
4. Ruth had a conversion experience.
5. Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem. Naomi (pleasant) changed her name to Mara (bitter) because she had been tested by God.

### Ruth 2: A hint of romance

1. Ruth gleaned in the fields of a kinsman, Boaz.

Leviticus 19:9 *“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.”*

2. Boaz noticed Ruth the “new girl.”

Ruth2:5 *Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, “Who does that young woman belong to?”*

3. Boaz’s attraction took to action.

Ruth 2:11 *Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband — how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. 12 May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”*

13 *“May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord,” she said. “You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant — though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls.”*

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, (this is a dramatic social upgrade) 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, "Even if she gathers among the sheaves, don't embarrass her.*

*16 Rather, pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."*

4. Naomi's hope is restored. Mara didn't stick.

*Ruth 2:20 "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 kinsman-redeemers.*

### Ruth 3: An outright proposal

1. Naomi instructed Ruth on how to catch a man.

*Ruth 3:3 Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.*

2. Ruth lay down at the feet of Boaz.
3. Ruth told Boaz he was her guardian-redeemer.
4. Boaz told Ruth there was a nearer kinsman.

5. Boaz promised to try to be the redeemer.

### Ruth 4: A romance that fulfilled God's purpose

1. Boaz presented the option to the near kinsman.
2. He declined and removed his sandal.
3. Boaz became the goel and married Ruth.
4. They became the great grandparents of David.
5. Ruth, the Moabite, is in the genealogy of Jesus!

### Three Practical Lessons

1. To you who identify with Naomi -  
In time, God will restore up your hope.
2. To you who identify with Ruth -  
God has a purpose for your life. Even the pain
3. To you who identify with Boaz -  
By doing the right thing, you could affect generations to come.