

Ruth

Redemption & A Better Tomorrow

INTRODUCTION – Review Ruth 1-3

REDEMPTION / REDEEMER

- Redeem = to _____ or recover something or someone of value
- In the Old Testament, a (Kinsman) Redeemer had to be...
 - ➊ A _____ relative (cf. Hebrews 2:14)
 - ➋ _____ himself
 - ➌ _____ to redeem (buy back)
 - ➍ _____ to redeem
 - ➎ _____ to _____ the full price of redemption
- TRUTH: The Redeemer has come; your redemption price has been paid!
- APPEAL / RESPONSE: Allow yourself to be “bought back” by Jesus Christ!

AT THE CITY GATE OF BETHLEHEM (Ruth 4:1-12)

- *Challenge:* Another potential kinsman-redeemer/ husband
- *Setting:* Just inside the city gate of Bethlehem
- *Proceeding:* Surprisingly, Boaz starts the process off with a piece of property, not Ruth’s marriage request
- Thought Process

PRINCIPLE #1: Living _____
you way more than you think!

PRINCIPLE #2: God is _____ toward
_____ “_____.”

PUBLIC BLESSINGS (Ruth 4:11-12)

- ➊ May Ruth be like Rachel & Leah (v.11)
 - Famous matriarchs of Israel... 13 kids... Ruth is now considered a matriarch of Israel!
 - Ruth made it into the genealogy of the Messiah!
- ➋ May Boaz be famous in Bethlehem (v.11)
 - The one who blessed is blessed himself
 - Boaz made it into the genealogy of the Messiah!
- ➌ May your family be like Perez whom Tamar, an “outsider,” bore to Judah (v.12)
 - Another illustration of an “elastic” levirate marriage (Genesis 38)
 - Tamar (another foreign woman) made it into the genealogy of the Messiah!

PRINCIPAL #3: Even when it doesn’t seem like it, God is always _____ & lovingly _____ in the _____ of your life.

MARRIAGE & THE BIRTH OF A SON (Ruth 4:13-17)

THE GENEALOGY OF DAVID (Ruth 4:18-22)

- Boaz ➤ Obed ➤ Jesse ➤ David ➤ Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1,5)

PRINCIPAL #4: God is in _____
_____ of all human history. He will always have the
_____!

Prayer

Take a few moments to check in with each other and open in prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to be your guide.

My Story

Have you ever wanted to be famous for something? If you could have one extraordinary talent, what would you like to be famous for?

Digging Deep

- 1) "Love builds a better tomorrow" is a theme of this sermon series. How does the story of Ruth exemplify this theme? Share ways this theme applies today.
- 2) The story of Ruth is also about REDEMPTION (to buy back or recover) and RESTORATION through *HESED* (faithful) love. Why do human beings need redemption and restoration? In what ways are we tempted to inappropriately seek to redeem ourselves without God's help?

Digging Deeper

- 3) Read Ruth 4:1-10. God's law provided a path of redemption and restoration for Naomi's family. The closest (relative) kinsman-redeemer in Ruth 4 was initially ready to "help" redeem Naomi's property. But he was unwilling to marry Ruth in the process. Why? How did his motives differ from God's in this "redemption" process?
- 4) In verse 10 Boaz proudly exclaims that Ruth, the Moabite widow, would become his wife along with the purchase of the Naomi's land. And the proceedings make it clear that Boaz wanted to marry Ruth more than buy the property. What motivated this Israelite to marry a foreigner like Ruth even in the face of possible negative scrutiny?
- 5) Read Ruth 4:13-22. Why is Ruth now being able to bear a child seen as a blessing from God? How was Naomi also blessed in this story?

- 6) The Moabite widow who was faithful to her mother-in-law, became an ancestor (great grandmother) to the great King David. How does this genealogy show God's sovereignty over all of history?

Taking it Home

- 7) It's hard to be faithful to God in the midst of great loss and discouragement. The story of Ruth shows that sometimes God is using the details and decisions of our lives to bless families and nations long after we have finished our earthly pilgrimage. But God's path for us is not always what we would prefer in the immediate present. How can we be confident in God's goodness and control when things don't go our way?
- 8) In the end, the whole community welcomes Ruth. What do you think brought her from being an outsider to being accepted? Is there an outsider in your life that you keep at an unfair distance? What step(s) can you take to bridge this gap between you?
- 9) Where have you seen the God of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz act redemptively in your own life? Who is a person in your life you can show a genuine *HESED* love so that they may see this same God as well?

Praying Together

How can this group support you in prayer now and in the coming week? Ask the Lord to help us all be instruments of God's *HESED* love to the families, cities and nations around us, so that we may be living proof of a TRUE REDEEMER in a world that desperately needs redemption and restoration.

