

Ruth: A Beautiful Story of Redemption

“The book of Ruth gets its name from one of its primary characters, a Moabite woman named Ruth who was the ancestor of David and Jesus. After reading the book of Judges, which paints a dark and depressing picture of Israel, the reader is relieved to encounter Ruth. Although the book is relatively short, it is rich in examples of kindness, faith, and patience. It is one of the five scrolls that was to be read during the Jewish festivals, in particular the Festival of Weeks.”

“The book of Ruth demonstrates how the Lord shows His covenant faithfulness to His undeserving people, often in surprising ways.”

John Phillips – “The book of Ruth is one of the most beautiful stories ever told. The climax toward which the whole book moves is the birth of a babe in Bethlehem. It provides the vital link between the days of the judges and the coming of David. The romance is woven around the story of a prodigal family and a kinsman-redeemer, around a Gentile woman and a high-brow Hebrew of the princely line of Judah. The book of Ruth is the story of redemption. It tells how one who was a stranger to the commonwealth and covenants of Israel, dwelling afar off in heathen darkness, was introduced to one who became her kinsman-redeemer and her lord.”

1. God’s people need to _____ and _____ for forks in the road.

Ruth 1:1-5 – *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. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth.*

2. God often turns _____ into _____ for His people.

Ruth 1:6-7 – *Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.*

3. God _____ and _____ His followers to fellowship with one another.

Ruth 1:16-18 – *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. 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.” And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.*

4. God calls His children to be faithful in the way they _____ and _____.

Ruth 2:1 – *Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.*

5. God consistently leads His people to _____ and _____ in life.

Ruth 2:7 – *She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."*

6. God's people need to learn the spiritual value behind _____ and _____.

Ruth 3:3 – *Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.*

7. God's people need to _____ and _____ before the Lord.

Ruth 3:7-9 – *And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."*

8. God's people should never forget the _____ and _____ of redemption.

Ruth 4:4-6 – *So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it." Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance." Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."*

9. God's people need to understand the difference between _____ and _____.

Ruth 4:18-22 – *Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.*

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1. God’s people need to **anticipate** and **prepare** for forks in the road.

Ruth 1:1-5 – *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. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth.*

2. God often turns **burdens** into **blessings** for His people.

Ruth 1:6-7 – *Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.*

3. God **expects** and **positions** His followers to fellowship with one another.

Ruth 1:16-18 – *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. 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.” And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.*

4. God calls His children to be faithful in the way they **behave** and **speak**.

Ruth 2:1 – *Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.*

5. God consistently leads His people to **work** and **wait** in life.

Ruth 2:7 – *She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."*

6. God's people need to learn the spiritual value behind **preparation** and **perseverance**.

Ruth 3:3 – *Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.*

7. God's people need to **slow down** and **sit still** before the Lord.

Ruth 3:7-9 – *And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."*

8. God's people should never forget the **love** and **price** of redemption.

Ruth 4:4-6 – *So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it." Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance." Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."*

9. God's people need to understand the difference between **religion** and **redemption**.

Ruth 4:18-22 – *Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.*