

Trusting God's Redeemer

Ruth 4:13-22

Trusting God (Ruth)


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Sunday, November 17, 2013, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois

“Christ *exhausted* the cup of God's wrath. For all who trust in Him there is nothing more in the cup. It is empty.” – JERRY BRIDGES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- TODAY – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES. BRING YOUR BOXES TO CHURCH.
- TUES. NOV. 26, 7PM PIE FELLOWSHIP, PAUL ALEXANDER, GRACE COVENANT
- DEC. 7 – CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - \$17 PER ADULT, \$11 PER CHILD (3-12)

 pen your Bible to **Ruth 4:13-22**. We are concluding our series through the Ruth entitled: “Trusting God.” This morning we are looking at our final message entitled: “Trusting God's Redeemer.”

Telling the Story of Christ

Every Christian is on earth to tell the story of Christ with his or her life. We go through trials and tribulations that seem to have no meaning. We are crucified with Christ. Our old life is dead. This life is painful and tedious at times. Yet like Christ we live the resurrected life. For the Christian death and pain and sorrow and tears are always swallowed up in victory.

So it is with Ruth. Ruth tells the story of Christ... The story of Ruth opens as bleak as can be. Three funerals leave Naomi and Ruth childless and penniless. Yet in all of Ruth and Naomi's struggles, they are telling the story of Christ. They are pointing to Christ!

Outline

Ruth tells the story of Christ in three ways.

- The **Marriage** points to Christ (4:13a).
- The **Baby** points to Christ (4:13b-17).
- The **Genealogy** points to Christ (4:18-22).

I. The **Marriage** points to Christ (4:13a).

Ruth 4:13a, “So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife...” Boaz marries Ruth. There is a wedding! **Proverbs 4:12**, “An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness [cancer] in his bones.”

Ruth, a Crown, not a Cancer

Ruth is like a crown on Boaz's head, not a cancer. Ruth wasn't always a crown. She didn't start off as a crown; she started off as a Moabite worshipping Chemosh, probably immoral

in her relationships, from a bad family in a horrible town. Her husband died, she was barren, maybe not even able to have children, she didn't know. She's not a virgin, new to town, flat broke, and a new convert.

But Ruth leaves all for the Lord. "He that forsakes all for Christ shall find more than all with him; it shall be recompensed a hundredfold in this present time" and much more in the life to come! (Matthew Henry).

Boaz was attracted to Ruth because Ruth loved the Lord – "under whose wings she had come to take refuge" (**Ruth 2:12**).

The reason why Ruth became a wonderful wife to Boaz, was because she had trusted in a Redeemer greater than Boaz! She trusted in YHWH. She lived a life of repentant faith and humility. That's what makes any married woman a great wife. The secret to a great marriage is to get your eyes off of marriage and on to Christ! She trusted in the Lord, and God gave her "exceeding, abundantly above all" that she could "ever ask or imagine."

The Matron of the Fields She Once Slaved In

Now as a married woman, Ruth had command of all the fields she had once gleaned in. She was now the matron of the fields where she slaved to get her food. Psalm 113:7–8 says that God "raises the poor from the dust... to make them sit with princes."

So it is with all who trust in Christ. We who struggle and labor in this painful existence are "heirs of God, and joint-heirs of Jesus Christ". We will one day rule and reign as God's kings and priests when our God and King, our Great Boaz returns. Mortality will put on immortality. Corruption will put on incorruption. Death will be swallowed up in victory! God will wipe away all tears! What a wedding that will be! It will be the "marriage supper of the Lamb."

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Turn if you would to Revelation 19:6. We are told there that one day we will hear the voice of a great multitude. A sea of people without number. It is the day when the trumpet sounds, and the dead in Christ rise. It will be the end of the ages. The Judgment Day. And the sheep will be gathered to Christ for a great wedding feast. Will you be there? Listen to the Apostle John's description of it...

Revelation 19:6–9

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

"Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready;

8 it was granted her to clothe herself

with fine linen, bright and pure"—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the **marriage supper of the Lamb.**" And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Are you invited to the heavenly marriage feast? Are you living off of the maggot filled scraps that this life can offer you, or are you feasting at the Table of the King? Do you know Christ? Can you say, "I am His and He is mine?" (Song 2:16).

II. The **Baby** points to Christ (4:13b-17).

Ruth 4:13b, "And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son..." Here was a woman who had been married before for ten years and barren. God sometimes makes the barren woman to be "a joyful mother of children" (**Psalm 113:9**).

Redemption

I want all of you ladies to understand, it really doesn't matter where you come from or what you've done, if you meet Jesus everything can and will change. You can have a horrible situation, as Ruth did, and you can have a wonderful conclusion, as Ruth does. The story opens with Ruth at a funeral as an unbelieving woman, and it concludes with her as a beloved, believing wife and mother who worships the God of the Bible, and that's a beautiful story of redemption.

Ruth has gone from a **foreigner** (Ruth 1) to a **servant** of the Lord (Ruth 2) to a beautiful **bride** (Ruth 3-4).

Short Engagement

I want you to notice a few things here. **Ruth 4:13**, "So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son."

First, notice the short engagement. Short engagements are wise and good. This is probably the shortest engagement ever. The Scripture doesn't say, but it seems their engagement couldn't have been a week. Maybe it was a month. But it seems short! We encourage that at Living Hope.

Chaste Until Marriage, Then Make Up for Lost Time

Notice secondly that Boaz and Ruth are chaste until marriage, and then they make up for lost time. That's our position here at Living Hope. Be chaste. Your future spouse is worth saving yourself. If you have failed, the blood of Jesus can cleanse you, but as a believer you want to remain chaste until marriage. You want to be a virgin. Boaz, as far as we know had never been married. They didn't listen to the lies of the world, like how do you know you love someone unless you sleep with them. I'll tell you what, they knew if they loved one another they wanted to give that which was most precious to each other on their wedding night, and not before.

First Romantic Experience on Wedding Night

Single people, you want your first romantic experience to be on your wedding night. Wait till the wedding night. You don't want to have to live with questions and comparisons in your life. You want to wait. You want to be chaste.

A Honeymoon Baby!

So Boaz and Ruth are chaste before marriage, and then they made up for lost time! And they conceived! **Ruth 4:13b**, “[Boaz] went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.” Wow! A honeymoon baby! Ruth had been previously married for ten years. How many kids did she conceive? Zero. Ruth got married and conceived a child in the same day. God is so gracious! So the book of Ruth is surrounded by the grace of God. Chapter one, God gives a harvest after a long famine. Chapter 4, God gives a baby to a barren woman. God is good! “Every good and perfect gift comes from above, from the Father of lights.” And we serve that same God.

Some Struggle with Infertility

Some of our couples in this church struggle with infertility. We are all for medical help if possible. We are all for adoptions. We as God’s people ought to be those who love children whether we can have them or not. Perhaps God would burden some of you to adopt children. There are even times though it is not often, but at times God opens up the barren womb. He did that for Ruth. He does not do that for everyone.

Our Country Doesn’t Believe Children are a Blessing From the Lord

The Bible says “That children are a blessing from the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). We live in a country that doesn’t believe that. Children are a lot of work. They cost a lot of money. That’s all true. But they are a blessing from the Lord. They are your legacy. Don’t let the world’s philosophy rob you of one of God’s greatest blessings. The families of our country are having less and less children. It’s sad. People are aborting God’s greatest blessings. May God have mercy on our country. Listen, if you can have children, you ought to have as many as your possibly can and stay sane.

Naomi’s Redeemer, Obed

So now the focus shifts to Ruth’s mother-in-law, Naomi. And her friends and Bible study ladies come around her and pray over her. **Ruth 4:14**, “Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel!”

There is a lot going on here. First, notice that this baby named Obed is called Naomi’s redeemer. If you look at the structure of this sentence, it is saying that baby Obed is Naomi’s redeemer.

Grandkids are like redemption. Grandkids make you happy. Grandkids are fun. Here is Naomi who has lost both of her sons. No mother ever expects to lose a child. It’s brutal. God knows that. In Naomi’s case, God gives Naomi a grandson, Obed, who is going to bring life into her life in a special way.

The Good Life

Naomi’s friends prophesy over Naomi and say, (vs. 15): “He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”

My wife’s folks actually got a bigger house when their children got married. I love it. You know why? For all the grandkids. Kids get married. Grandkids get married. Guess where our

favorite place is? Grandma and Grandpa's! And my kids are a nourisher and restorer of life in their old age.

Yes, grandkids bring great life. So the good life is not to have 20 girlfriends like Hollywood would like you to believe. The good life is to have lots of kids and lots of grandkids. That's the good life.

A Special Relationship

Now notice in verse 16, Naomi has a very special relationship with her grandson, Obed. She becomes a mother to him.

Ruth 4:16-17, “Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.”

So Naomi becomes a mother to Obed. She becomes a nursing mother to Obed. She raises him as if he were her own son. This is something Ruth did for Naomi, because she loved her mother-in-law so much. She knew she had two sons that died. She let her raise him it seems.

It looks like she did a pretty good job because Obed's grandson was King David!

They Gave Him a Name: Worshipper

“The women of the neighborhood gave him a name” (vs. 17). Apparently the women of the neighborhood in the little town of Bethlehem suggested the name that Naomi should suggest to Ruth. That name? It's very significant, like all the names in the book of Ruth. His name should be Obed, which means **“worshipper.”**

That's how we ought to raise our children. We usually raise our voice in anger. We ought to raise our voice in worship. When is the last time you worshipped with your child? How about you Grandma and Grandpa – when is the last time you worshipped with the grandchildren. When did you get on your knees in worship and adoration with your children or grandchildren?

I love this – Obed's name is “worshipper”. He's going to learn to worship from Naomi and Ruth and Boaz and all the people of the neighborhood. That's a great environment to raise a child!

Multi-generational Godliness

I want you to see this multi-generational godliness that is so lacking in our culture and even in our churches. The majority of us here are **first generation Christians**. Let us do all we can to stay close to one another as families. A child doesn't just need a mom and a dad. **A child needs his or her grandparents.**

If you are godly, you ought to do all you can to be there for your kids and your grandkids. Look at Naomi.

III. The Genealogy points to Christ (4:18-22).

Ruth 4:18-22, “Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, ²¹ Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, ²² Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.”

More than a Good Time, a Good Legacy

This is like reading the Hebrew phone book. And God is telling us something here. He wants us to have something more than just a good time or a good weekend. He wants us to have a good legacy. I'm so thankful God got a hold of me when I was 15. I was on my way to destruction. My twin sister was the same way. By the time she was 20 she was on drugs, anorexic, and giving her body to a man that wasn't her husband.

But Jesus changed us both. And now instead of going to rehab and having 20 girlfriends that can't read, I have a wife and five children and God is giving us a good legacy. You don't want a good time my friend. You want a good legacy!

Matthew's Genealogy of Christ

The genealogy that caps off the book of Ruth (Ruth 4:18-22) is almost identical to **Matthew 1:1-6**, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 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. And David was the father of Solomon by the **wife of Uriah**." Four Canannite women are mentioned here in Matthew.

The Multi-Cultural Genealogy

Check out this genealogy. This redeemer Obed points to Christ and His church! Perez came from **Tamar**, according to Philo, a Jewish historian, Tamar was likely a Gentile – a Canaanite.¹ Salmon was married to **Rahab**, a Canaanite from Jericho. Boaz is married to **Ruth** the Moabite.

Remember King David's son Solomon is born to **Bathsheba**, who is married to Uriah the Hittite. Most Bible scholars believe Bathsheba herself was also a Hittite woman.

Look at all these Gentile women in the line of our Savior! All four women are mentioned in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus! What we have is a preview of the church of Jesus Christ. This royal line of Jesus points to a church that includes "every tribe, tongue, people, and nation" who will shout praises to the Lord. He is worthy!

Monocultural Churches

According to research conducted by recent sociologists, 92.5 percent of Catholic and Protestant churches throughout the United States can be classified as "monocultural." This term describes a church in which 80 percent or more of the individuals who attend are of the same ethnicity. The remaining churches (7.5 percent) can be described as multicultural—churches in which there are a non-majority, collective population of at least 20 percent. By this definition,

¹ Philo, a Jewish exegete who lived at the time of Matthew, wrote this about her: "Tamar was a woman from Syria Palestina who had been bred up in her own native city, which was devoted to the worship of many gods, being full of statues, and images, and, in short, of idols of every kind and description. But when she, emerging, as it were, out of profound darkness, was able to see a slight beam of truth, she then, at the risk of her life, exerted all her energies to arrive at piety...living for the service of and in constant supplication to the one true God" (*Virt.* 220–22).

approximately 12 percent of Catholic churches, just less than 5 percent of Evangelical churches, can be described as multiracial. So let me ask you a question: If the kingdom of heaven is not segregated, why on earth is the Church?²

Heaven is a place where we see “every tribe, tongue, people, and nation” worshipping the Lamb. We want our church to look like heaven!

A Genealogy of Great Sinners

Tamar and Rahab were harlots. We know about the sin of David and Bathsheba. Ruth before she was a believer worshipped Chemosh. She and her sister Orpah were likely the daughters of Eglon, king of the Moabites. Jesus’ family is filled with sinners, because that’s the only kind of people Jesus saves.

Remember the words of Jesus, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance” (**Luke 5:31-32**).

Not Pills, Relationships, a Great Job, but Redemption Brings Happiness

Pills, and books, and a great job, and relationships and seminars – that can’t make you happy. What makes us happy? The scarlet thread of the Bible, the thread of REDEMPTION in Christ will truly satisfy us. Christ satisfies. He heals. What is in common with all these names? They are the family of Jesus Christ. You see Jesus Heals!

What Are Ruth and Naomi without a Redeemer?

They are penniless. Barren. Homeless. No legacy. No hope. But Boaz comes along, and there is Ruth goes from penniless to provided for. She goes from Barren to a mother in the genealogy of Christ. She goes from forgotten to loved and cherished.

Ruth and Boaz, and Naomi – their lives all point to Christ. The marriage, the baby, the genealogy. It all points to Christ. They lived for the coming redeemer.

How about your life? Does it point to Christ?

Book of Ruth Leads to the Cross!

You see the book of Ruth leads to the cross. Ruth progenerates the line of the Savior. It is through this child’s bloodline that all the nations of the world will be blessed.

It’s not exclusively a Jewish bloodline. It is a bloodline that includes Jews and Gentiles. And so we get a picture of heaven.

My Twin Sister Tammie: Too Big a Sinner?

I would be remiss not to end the book of Ruth with a call for you to come to the Redeemer. I had urged my twin sister Tammie, to go to a Gospel preaching church service and consider the Gospel. I had prayed for her for ten years. She had heard the truth that Christ died for her sins many times. It never hit home until one day in March of 1999. There was a church of 25 people meeting in a garage 50 feet from our childhood home in the bayou of Louisiana. This is a mile in the woods.

² DeYmaz, Mark (2010-12-22). Building a Healthy Multi-ethnic Church: Mandate, Commitments and Practices of a Diverse Congregation (Jossey-Bass Leadership Network Series) (p. 4). Wiley. Kindle Edition.

The message was given. Christ Jesus died for sinners. She said, I don't think God can love me. I'm too bad. This little twelve year old girl told her: That's just who Jesus saves. You can only come to Jesus if you feel like you are unworthy and in need of the Savior. That day my sweet sister was born again! She was redeemed!

Come to Jesus!

It wasn't her pills. It wasn't any relationship that rescued her. It was Christ! It is Christ alone that can help us! He suffered, bled and died to redeem you from your sins. He will make you clean! He will remove the stains of your sin. Come to Jesus!

“Christ *exhausted* the cup of God's wrath. For all who trust in Him there is nothing more in the cup. It is empty.” – JERRY BRIDGES

Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life – no one comes to the Father but through Him!
Come to Jesus! Christ alone is our only hope!