

**BOOK OF RUTH
WHAT GOD CAN DO
RUTH 4:1-22**

Introduction

This morning I want to finish looking at THE BOOK OF RUTH— A BEAUTIFUL LOVE STORY!

The story of Ruth is one of the most fascinating stories you will ever read! It's true that it is a LOVE story, but it is also quite a SUCCESS story.

We saw in chapter one that Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons Mahlon and Chilion, tried to run from God's judgment in Bethlehem to try to make it without Him in Moab. They were running from a famine in the land!

As a result Elimelech died in Moab, his two sons married Moabite women and they also died 10 years later having had no children leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law to fend for themselves.

Naomi swallows her pride and decides to return to her homeland of Bethlehem-Judah. One of her Moabite daughters-in-law, Ruth, joined her.

Now we already looked at the fact that YOU CAN'T RUN FROM GOD, and that YOU MUST COME TO THE END OF YOURSELF TO COME TO THE BEGINNING OF GOD.

WE HAVE SEEN GOD'S PROVIDENCE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN THIS CHAPTER!

LET'S SUMMARIZE THAT PROVIDENCE.

Chapter 1—A poor, Moabite woman married a man who was going to die and whose mother would take her to Bethlehem in the first place.

Chapter 2—Ruth happens upon the field of Boaz to glean grain and they fell in love.

Chapter 3—Of all the men that Ruth could have fallen in love with, she fell in love with a man who was a kinsman-redeemer.

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Now let me assure you that NONE of these happenings were a coincidence! God had worked out all of these events! He did it not only because of His love and care for Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi, but also for a much larger demonstration of His love that we'll see in a minute!

Now with all of the things that have gone right with Ruth and Boaz, **there was still one problem that had to be addressed!** There was a kinsman-redeemer who was closer kin than Boaz and he would have to be dealt with first!

So let's read what happens:

I. THE MARRIAGE. (Ruth 4:1-12)

A. We see that Boaz went to the city gates, which is where all the official business is taken care of. (It was much like the courthouse of the day.)

1. Boaz needed to find this "*closer relative*" and give him the first opportunity to redeem Elimelech's land and Ruth as well.
2. Now the city gate was the place not only to take care of business, but it was apparently the most likely place to run in to someone.

B. Now when Boaz saw this relative, he asked him to sit down with him in front of the elders and he told him the story.

1. Of course, we weren't there, but can't you just imagine that Boaz's heart just sunk when the kinsman redeemer agreed to redeem the land.
2. However, a quick thinking Boaz reminded him that he couldn't redeem the land without marrying Ruth, in order to carry on the name of the deceased.
3. After being told that tidbit of information, this other kinsmen's demeanor changed. If this man were to redeem Ruth and have a son by her, this son would get the piece of land that this kinsman was redeeming.

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But he would also have to give up some of the inheritance that had been saved up for the sons he already had.

That's why he said in vs. 6, *"I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance. . ."*

- C. We can just imagine that Boaz's now filled with joy!**
Finally he would be able to marry the girl of his dreams!
- D. Now there are some things here that we need to apply in our own lives.**
- 1. The first one is this: WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES THAT GOD PUTS IN FRONT OF US.**
 - a.. Boaz could have asked Ruth to run away to Moab with him, but remember that's how Ruth got in such a mess to start with.
 - b. But rather than do that, Boaz dealt with the issues that faced him openly and honestly.
 - c. And when we face problems in our lives, we need to deal with them in the same way.
 - d. When we get a cut, we go ahead and clean it and put antiseptic on it. And while that might cause it to sting for a few minutes, its better than allowing it to get infected and make us sick.
 - e. Our spiritual lives work the same way. God wants to do some great things in our lives but sometimes we must deal with some things first if we'd rather not deal with first!

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Have you dealt with the matter of salvation?!

Christian, have you dealt with the matter of getting right with God?

WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES THAT GOD PUTS IN FRONT OF US.

- 2. The other thing that we need to learn from Boaz's situation is this: GOD HAS A WAY OF WORKING THINGS OUT.**
 - a. God already knew that the nearer kinsman would not redeem Ruth so that Boaz could! God was in control! He had planned it that way!
 - b. The only way that this could not be so is if somebody were smarter or stronger than God.
 - e. Listen folks, God has a purpose and plan for your life!

Even if you are lost today, he has a plan for your salvation. But you have to deal with the issue of your own sin.
 - 1) If you're here today but you don't know for absolute certain that you would go to heaven if you were to die right now, then you need to get that taken care of today. Come and accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, and then follow Him in obedience.
 - 2) If you're here and you are saved, but God has been convicting you that you've stopped following Him and you need a fresh start, then get back to Him today.

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THE MARRIAGE.

II. THE MOTHER. (Ruth 4:13-14)

A. Once all of that business with the nearer kinsman was concluded, Ruth and Boaz got married.

Can't you just imagine what kind of wedding these two had? There is no doubt that probably just about everyone in Bethlehem was there.

B. After getting married, we see that Ruth immediately conceived and they had a brand new son named Obed.

C. What a seemingly unlikely story this is! It started out with a poor Moabitess who married a man who was on the run from God. We might look at the situation and say, "How in the world could this turn out good?"

1. Ruth was only married to Naomi's son for 10 barren years, and then he died. It didn't appear that her future was getting any brighter.

2. She and her mother and law traveled back to Bethlehem. They had no possessions, and the only way that they could survive was for Ruth to glean wheat and barley in the fields of others.

They were at the mercy of the owners and workers in the fields. At first appearance, it was not much of a promising career.

3. And then came Boaz, a man who saw Ruth and was willing to pay any price, to do anything to have a relationship with her.

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4. And suddenly life became good. Even when there was the problem of the nearer kinsman, you just knew everything was going to be all right.

5. God is good isn't He?

6. Listen, Jesus Christ saw you and He saw me and He was willing to pay any price and to do anything to have a relationship with us.

D. The application for us is simple: Trust in God! Trust God with your whole life. You can't be in any safer place than in God's hands. It all goes back to **Ruth 1:16 and Ruth 2:12.**

1. Psalm 46:10 says, "*Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*"

2. Give God your health, your marriage, your family, your possessions! Give Him all that you have! Rest in His faithful caring hands.
"Be not dismayed what'er betides, God will take care of you."
"Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you."

THE MARRIAGE...THE MOTHER...

III. THE MESSIAH. (Ruth 4:15-22)

Let's look at something else amazing in this sweet little love story.

A. Boaz was the great-grandfather of King David.
That made him the great 24 grandfather of Jesus.

B. God loved Ruth and Boaz so He caused them to be together.
But He also brought them together because He loves you and me.

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C. Through this unlikely pair, God brought redemption to you and me.

1. The women told Naomi that Ruth loved her and was *“better to thee than seven sons.” (Vs 15)*

2. They were right, because God would use the lineage of Ruth and Boaz to bring the redeemer of all mankind into the world.

Conclusion

Naomi had had a rough life. But now she was restored through the new life she held in her hands.

Look at **verse 16** again. Naomi was holding the link to her redemption in her hands. Think about where Naomi had come from. **(1:20-21)**

Naomi had given up all hope of ever pleasing God. Her life had become so dark.

But God stepped in...isn't that a great! God had some other plans...plans of redemption.

This story doesn't end with the picture of Naomi holding this newborn it continues on.

Redemption by this kinsman-redeemer gave a new life so that God's plan of redemption could continue.

Jesus Christ is our Kinsman-Redeemer who redeems and gives new life to all who come to Him.

This story of redemption isn't over. It continues each time a person confesses and believes in Jesus Christ.

The story of redemption continues to give new life today! If you haven't already, will you curl up at the feet of Jesus and ask Him to be your redeemer?