

Let's Worship God

23rd-28th October 2023

Ruth

A photograph of a golden wheat field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and the field. The wheat stalks are in the foreground, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The word "Ruth" is written in a large, white, elegant script font across the center of the image.

Ruth

Ruth

Monday - Ruth 4:1-9 - Getting the Matter Sorted

Boaz doesn't go to his house, he doesn't go to try to catch up on the lost hours of sleep, he doesn't go to get breakfast, he doesn't go to do any other thing other than go to get this matter sorted. He sits down at the gate and there is the redeemer coming along. It isn't luck that this man happens to pass by just after Boaz has sat down. It's the hidden hand of God moving behind the scenes. God has His plan and His purposes, and we know that He's in control, and we know that He has all wisdom, that He is doing what is right and good for the church of Christ.

The gate of the city was where business transactions took place, and it was the place of judgment. He gathers up ten of the elders because he needs witnesses. The opportunity that's before this other man is really quite a good one. He will acquire more land. It was a good deal, and he agrees to it. But then Boaz puts the spanner in the works, because he tells him about Ruth. She is the one that he must redeem it for. He needs to give consideration to the dead and to their honor. Boaz here is not simply concerned about business. He is concerned about the honor of the dead and of the good of Naomi and Ruth. And the other man here backs out. You see, for him to marry Ruth and to have children by her would mean that he wasn't going to amass the land to himself and to his name as he thought. He would be having children that would be named after Mahlon and Elimelech, and the land would still belong to their family. And so this investment that he initially thought was a good deal now becomes an investment that has no return for him. It's simply a means of blessing other people. And so he pulls out.

Boaz here is a man of honour and self-sacrifice. He is willing to step up and do this duty even if it means he will have no name, or reputation, or glory. Even if it means him paying money without getting a return. Boaz is willing.

Questions

1. How do we see God's hand in what happens?
2. How does Boaz show he is a man of honour and self-sacrifice?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all the circumstances of our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." Ruth 1:17b

Praise: Psalm 41 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Ruth

Tuesday - Ruth 4:1-12 - A Willing Redeemer

The people ask that the Lord make Ruth like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel. As Christians, we should consider children a blessing. There's a blessing to Boaz himself at the end of verse eleven - may you act worthily and be renowned. It's interesting that they pray that blessing. For what is it that Boaz is doing? He's sacrificing his own honour, and he's sacrificing his own wealth for the sake of these widows and for the sake of the honour and reputation of the dead.

Boaz points us to the Lord Jesus Christ. Boaz is willing to sort this matter and to do so quickly and properly. Is it not the same with the Lord Jesus Christ? There was no absolute necessity placed on Him, the Son of God, to redeem any people at all in the Divine counsel. He willingly and voluntarily agreed to do this, that in eternity, before the world had even been created and before man was to fall, before anything would happen to necessitate redemption, He was willing. No one compelled Him. No one forced him to do it. God doesn't look at you and me and think, there's some reason in us why we should be redeemed. It's purely of grace. When Christ took to Himself human flesh, when He took to Himself a true body and a reasonable soul, He became the God-man. Two natures were together in one person, in that wonderful union never to be broken. But there were two wills. There was the Divine will and the human will. And so the Divine will and the human will agreed together to do the very same thing. Jesus Christ was more willing to go to the cross than you and I are willing to go to the cross to receive forgiveness. Just as Boaz went immediately and dealt with it, so Christ has willingly accomplished redemption.

Questions

1. What blessings did the witnesses ask God for?
2. How is Boaz like Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ was a willing Redeemer.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” Ruth 1:17b

Praise: Psalm 42 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Ruth

Wednesday - Ruth 4:1-12 - All For Love

Boaz acts legally. The security and the wellbeing of Ruth is guaranteed legally. So it is for us, if we are to have redemption, eternal security, and peace, it must be done legally, must be done properly. Divine justice must be completely satisfied. Someone has to pay for your sins. You have to pay for your own sin, or else Christ has paid for it. That's the only option. And to pay for your own sins, by eternal punishment, you'll never pay it off. But just as Boaz legally secured Ruth's redemption, so too, Christ has legally assured the redemption of His people. He laid down His life upon the cross, and He satisfied divine justice out of that cup of wrath. Not even one drop of it needs to spill over into the mouths of God's people.

Love moved Boaz here, love for Ruth. The Lord Jesus Christ loves His bride so much that He has paid for the ransom. Nothing in us merited any notice on His part. We were like Ruth, a widow, poor, destitute, with no hope and no security. Yet Christ Jesus was willing to redeem His people, He was willing to sacrifice His name and His reputation, His honor and His glory to bless His people.

Who is the main character of the book of Ruth? In one way, you could argue Naomi is the main character. She goes out full, she comes back empty. And it's a story of how the Lord fills her up again with His grace and mercy. In another sense, it's a story of Ruth. It's a story of how the Lord takes a Moabite woman and unites her to Himself and unites her by faith. But in another and very real sense, it's a story of Boaz. It's Boaz who stands out as the man of dignity and the man of honor. The Lord Jesus Christ is the man of dignity and the man of honor. He willingly sacrificed Himself. He legally satisfied divine justice. His love towards us was so great, He has redeemed His people.

Questions

1. How does Christ give us eternal security?
2. What motivates Christ to act to redeem us?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's love for His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." Ruth 1:17b

Praise: Psalm 43 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Ruth

Thursday - Ruth 4:13-17 - Redemption for Ruth and Naomi

There is redemption for Ruth. Ruth is a foreigner, and she is a widow. She is without hope. Anything good that comes her way is by grace. She does not deserve it. Yet, it comes. Ruth is taken into Boaz's house, and she becomes his wife. Previously, she had no hope, and now all her hope is bundled up with Boaz. Previously, she had no standing in the community, and now her standing is bundled up with Boaz and his standing. Previously she had no wealth, and now she has wealth in the house of Boaz. Her future is tied up with Boaz. It's a great and a glorious picture of the gospel, that we become bound up with the Lord Jesus Christ. By faith, we're united to Him in such a way that His future is ours, His wealth is ours, His security becomes ours. Boaz truly delighted in his new wife. He desired her, he loved her. So too, Christ loves His church, He laid down His life for her. If we're in Christ, our future is bound up with Christ. It's tied so closely to Him, we cannot be separated. Who can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

There is redemption for Naomi. She becomes like a second mother to Obed. The Lord is more than able to take a hopeless, bleak situation and to completely overturn it. So He does for Naomi. She is given what is pleasant and what is good. She is given consolation and peace in her old age. As we read verses 14-15, we wonder who are these women talking about? Verse 15 shows us that the him that is talked about is the one that Ruth has born. May Obed be a restorer of life and a nourisher of her old age. We have a picture there of what happens to us in our redemption. Christ restores our souls from a life spent in sin and misery. He brings joy that if we've been justified, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away. All things have become new.

Questions

1. How has Ruth's life completely changed?
2. How has Naomi's life completely changed?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." Ruth 1:17b

Praise: Psalm 44 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Ruth

Friday - Ruth 4:18-22 - Redemption for the Nation

Perez would have gone down with Jacob into Egypt when Joseph was there. Perez, Hezron, and Ram would have died in Egypt. It was only at the time of Amminadab that they came up out of Egypt. It was Nahshon who led the army of Judah, but it was not Nahshon who entered into the Promised Land. He perished in the wilderness. It was Salmon who got to enter into the Promised Land. It was Salmon who noticed another foreign woman, Rahab. Rahab, who had hidden the spies, married Salmon, and through that union came Boaz, the star of our story.

Judges is all about the fact that there was no king in Israel, and everyone did what was right in his own eyes. But Ruth puts before us the way that the king will come. The Israelites were hoping for a king, and they had every reason to hope for a king. We read in First Samuel of how the people came to Samuel and said, give us a king like the nations around us. Sometimes we think it was wrong for Israel to have a king. It was not wrong. They should have been hoping for a king. They should have been praying for a king. They should have been expecting one because God had promised a king. But the question was - what type of king did they want? They wanted one to be like the nations. They rather should have wanted a king so that God's covenant purposes would have been fulfilled. God promised Abraham in Genesis 17, I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. So the Israelites had every reason to look forward to a king. They had every reason to pray that God's covenant purposes would be established, that they would have a king to rule over them, and defend them, and lead them in paths of righteousness. Here we see in the Book of Ruth that it's through redemption, through the actions of Boaz, that this king comes - David. The whole purpose of this book is not simply about individual redemption. It's a story of redemption for the whole land, for Israel.

Questions

1. Who was the mother of Boaz?
2. What kind of king should the Israelites have wanted?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would work revival and reformation in our nation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” Ruth 1:17b

Praise: Psalm 45 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Ruth

Saturday - Ruth 4:13-22 - Redemption for You

Is this not an anticlimactic ending, this genealogy? But it leaves us looking forward to something greater. The Gospel begins with a genealogy. In Matthew 1 the earthly roots of Jesus Christ are laid before us. He was a true man. But it also very clearly shows to us that the Lord Jesus Christ is divine, the Son of God. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. In the Book of Ruth, we see a genealogy that's very ordinary, but it leaves us longing for the king who will come, who is not ordinary. This genealogy points us forward to the Redeemer.

The book ends in this way, but it leaves us with the question, are you trusting in the Redeemer? This whole book is about redemption. It paints to you the bleakness of our natural state, a nation in chaos, us dead in our trespasses and sins. But then it gives us hope, because it sets before us a redeemer, a kinsman, one who comes and who legally transacts all the business, so that our debts are paid, and we get new life and new hope. Are you trusting in the Redeemer? Do you know Him? Have you come to believe in Him? If we go to Christ for redemption, He will redeem you from all your iniquities. There will not be one sin left. There is nothing for you to do, just as there was nothing for Ruth to do but to sit and wait until Boaz accomplished the redemption for her. There's nothing for you to do but what Ruth herself did as she went in chapter three to Boaz. She goes to him and she says, I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative. The Lord Jesus Christ is a close relative, very God, very man, close to us in flesh and blood, just as we are, yet without sin. He is willing to take you under his wing. He is willing to take you under his protection. He is willing to give you abundant redemption and to redeem you from all your iniquities. All that is left for you to do is to go to Him.

Question

1. How does the Gospel begin?
2. Is Christ willing to redeem those who come to Him?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." Ruth 1:17b

Praise: Psalm 46 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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