

Ruth 3

How Did You Two Meet?...Huh!??

1 of Joys Pastoring 12 yrs Beijing serving Young Adults from 100 Nations

Church Planted midst 82 Universities > Target: 1,000's Int'l Students

No Funeral/# Weds: US/Uruguay, SA/Haiti, Costa Rica/Romania, UK/KZ

Rest of Lives Story to Tell: Spouse oppos Globe / Met BJ

Ruth begins w/ Sad Story: Famine, Refugees, Widowhood, Immigrants, Loss, Pain

Thread thru Story > God > Merciful, Faithful, Trustworthy

2 Heroines: Young & Old, Cried & Called on LORD: Heard & Answered

Each Chapter ends with Note of HOPE...Last Verse of Chapter 1:

1.22 And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Bethlehem > HOUSE of Bread > SHELVES Full of Tasty Loaves!

Ch 2 God met Need for FOOD > GLEANING: Gift of God's Law

2.23 And she lived with her mother-in-law. / That AIN'T RIGHT!

God NOT Finished Yet > God Now meets Need for FAMILY

1. Formula for JOY = Jesus, Others, Yourself

Most of 1st 2 Ch's Story > Naomi's focus "*Me, Myself, and I*"

Troubles TURNED her Inward – Consumed by Grief – Full of Bitterness

1.20,21 "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

Ch 2 Ruth Worked Hard GLEANING -- went Out Daily for 3 Months!

N. stayed Home: enjoyed Korean Soap Opera & Jamoca Almond Fudge

God @ work in World, Family & N's HEART > Softened, Submission

Slowly Bitterness Melted > Naomi had that God 'out to get her'!

Ruth comes back 1st Day Gleaning > 50 lbs Barley & Picnic SCRAPS

2.20 Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!”

Intentional Hebrew Grammatical Ambiguity: HE? God or Boaz? Both? Bitterness overcome by
Blessing > sees ‘God working thru all things’

3.1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?”

Repentance > Turns attention from Ourselves to God and OTHERS

@ MCC 17: J.O.Y. = Jesus, Others, Yourself! Looked Dumb & Churchy!

After 50 yrs trying to Follow Jesus > Makes Lotta SENSE!

2. Bible Not Always a Blueprint

Bible BIG Book w/ 66 Books Inside > OT 39 / NT 27 – written 1000 yrs

Collection of Books > VARIOUS Styles of Literature

Commands, Poems, Sermons, Prophecies, Apocalyptic, History

Testimony of God, Calls to Believe > God, Faith, Love, Church – YES!

RUTH = History > True, Honest, Selective (not all), Thematic: DAVID

What REALLY Happened to R, N, & B > NOT commands for OUR Lives

Historical Record NOT Blueprint to be COPIED Exactly

Judges: Gideon Fleece, Jephthah killed 1st > Door, Levite Concubine 12 X

Acts > Flames on Head, Sold Property & Shared, Some Spoke Tongues

Biblical History Accurate, Reliable, Inerrant Record NOT How-to-Manual

Historical Record: What God DID / Commands, esp NT: What WE DO!

NT Letters > Fullest, Clearest Expression to Church / Followers of Jesus

3. God Protects Integrity of the Righteous

How’d You 2 Meet? Fun Stories: Friends, Family, Matchmakers, Internet

Some Circumstances OUT of our Control > Stalker, Set-up, Arranged

3000 yrs ago > MOABITE Immigrant in Israel Not a lot of OPTIONS

Jewish Mother-in-law Calling Shots > Ruth MALAHINI @ Mercy of N.

3.1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?”

3 Months of Harvest / Hard Work Gleaning / Ruth Weary Needs REST

Naomi had a Wonderful PLAN for Ruth’s Life // your friends? family?

WHO in Bethlehem would be Refuge for Woman from MOAB?

MOABITE Not allowed to JOIN the ASSEMBLY of God’s People

Balak & Balam > Israel...the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab... the people ate and bowed down to their gods. Numbers 25.1-5

“No Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD... You shall not seek their peace or their prosperity all your days forever. Deuteronomy 23.3,6

Ruth is as welcome in Bethlehem as a ham sandwich at a Bar Mitzvah. Don Carson

Naomi thot ANSWER was BOAZ > Relative of Late-Husband Elimelek

2.19 And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.” 20 ...Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.”

Diff w/ Boaz – Old/Young, Rich/Poor, High Standing/Outsider

Ch 2 – Boaz SWEET on Ruth > Old, Awkward, Set in his Ways, Afraid

BOAZ > Shy, Awkward? – Attracted to Ruth but Hesitant to Act

How young Moabite Alien PROPOSE to Wealthy, Elder in Bethlehem?

Naomi good Jewish Mother-in-Law > She will TAKE ACTION

Naomi plans BLIND Date – Literally – Dark Night Machine Room

N. Good Motive: Future Home for Ruth > Maybe NOT Best METHOD

3.2 Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 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. 4 But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.” 5 And she replied, “All that you say I will do.”

Ruth HITCHED her Wagon to Naomi’s Star – Outsider in Bethlehem

Not sure how did Matchmaking in Moab – Ruth says ‘I’m in on the plan’

1978 1st yr Sem Student: HEBREW – Translated book of Ruth

v. 4 N’s Instructions AMBIGUOUS > Hebrew words Multiple Meanings

Young Teaching Ass’t > Variant Word ‘feet’ v. 4 = Private Parts

There is UNCOVERING and then there’s UNCOVERING!

N. Out-of-the-Box Idea > Meet-Up on Threshing Floor > Smell Barley Air

GUSSY Up! Clean Up! Dress Up! Brighten Up! Doll Up!

Did N. think Ruth / Moabite would SEDUCE Boaz // Moabite Women?

Ruth puts Safety & Reputation at RISK if Plan Goes SOUTH

3.14 So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, “Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.”

3.6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. ⁷ 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.

Heard Harvest time 4 MAC Nuts, Wonder if this happens Island Harvest?

Guys pulling All-Nighter working in Factory > Have Cold Drink / Relax

Take a SNOOZE on the Comfy Pile of Mac Nut Husks?

Middle of Dark Night > FEET Cold (WAS JUST Feet!) – Reach Blanket

Big Girl Under Blanket > Sweet Smells of Moab PERFUME!

Might happen All the Time @ Mac Nuts > NEVER happened to BOAZ!

3.8 At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! 9 He said, “Who are you?”

Naomi told Ruth what to DO > But GOD told Ruth what to SAY!

Great Young Woman! > Bold – Honest – Direct – Humble – FAITH!!

She has NO Intention of Compromising Morals or Integrity

“Boaz, if you want to be GOOD Man to Care for Me – I am READY!”

Ruth NOT there to SEDUCE Boaz > PURITY is POSITIVE Virtue

Every person you have SEX with takes a Piece of your SOUL

“One Flesh” – Paul questions Corinthians ‘1 flesh w/ prostitute?’

Like Cardboard GLUED Together > Tear Apart > Ragged Mess!

3.9 And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.” >> Ruth has PURE Motives

Same words Boaz to Ruth 2.12 The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!”
God of ISRAEL may use You to BE Wings HE will Cover Me with

Ruth’s GOAL was for a LIFETIME of LOYAL Love before GOD

In ANCIENT World covering Woman w/Garment = Engagement Ring

God to Israel: “I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine” Ezekiel 16.8

BOLD, Counter-Cultural Request of Ruth > Fulfill Duty of Redeemer

Kinsman / Relative = LATIN ‘levirite’ / HEBREW ‘goel’

DUTIES of the Next of Kin > Take care of Widowed Family

NAME of Dead would Continue > LAND/Inheritance Continues

“so man’s name will not be BLOTTED Out of Israel”

Leviticus ‘nearest redeemer shall redeem’

3.10 And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.
11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask

Boaz watched Ruth 3 Months > Gleaning: humble, hard worker, servant

2.11 Boaz: “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before.

If 'Ruth' MOVIE: Hollywood Handsome man / Beautiful Woman

TRUE Beauty > In the LORD, VIRTUE, Godliness

2.1 "a *worthy man* of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz"

3.11 "for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a *worthy woman*"

3.15 Boaz: "Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city... 17 Ruth: "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'"

Hollywood > Cast Beautiful Actress BUFF: "6 Measures" = 80 lbs.

Boaz put 80 lbs. Barley in R's Beautiful DRESS > Carried across Town!

Ruth No FRAIL WAIF – Woman of Substance – Big, Strong, Woman!

Ruth – PUT into Compromised Situation / Shade on her CHARACTER?

God's LIGHT of Holiness w/ Her & Boaz on Dark Threshing Floor

v. 16 And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?"

Lit. HEBREW = "who are you?" > Glowing with JOY

Do I know this Moabite Girl? New Creation! Daughter of Living God

Transformed by Spirit of God > Protected by Holiness of God

4. Waiting builds Character

Ch 3 – Question: What am I willing to Risk, and For What?

Life filled w Challenges – Perils, Problems, Pains > Devastating FIRES!

Honestly --- Most of Us want to STAY Safe > God Deserves BEST

Will we RISK our Reputation for God's Honor // RUTH

Willing to be FOOL for Christ // World where Foolishness is Treasured?

Not easy to have LOYAL LOVE for the LIVING GOD

Often have to WAIT > God Never Early / Never Late / On Time God

Boaz the Redeemer is Determined to Redeem

LEGAL Problem that must be Fixed FIRST

3.12 And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. 13 Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you.... 3.18 Naomi: "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

Threshing floor - physical space for chaff & edible barley separated

Threshing Floor > Symbol of judgment / Heaven and Hell

Araunah the Jebusite's threshing floor was located on Moriah hill.

Exact spot Abe worshipped God by showing willingness to offer Isaac

God's Anger angst David – Destroying Angel stopped Araunah's mill

King David built Altar there / Solomon built Temple on that Spot

Fullness of Time – Jesus gave Life on Cross – on Same Hill

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