

Ruth 4

Names Never Forgotten

One of Most Beautiful Short-stories ever Written > FAMOUS

Sit Down & READ Whole Thing > Listen to Reader

Common People who become UNCOMMON > Point us to JESUS

1. God Plays the Long Game

Naomi has some Awkward Moments in Book of RUTH

Why'd they Go MOAB? Trust God to fill His House of Bread / Bethlehem

Strange NAMES to 2 Sons > Mahlon & Chilion = Weak and Sick

Back Hometown B. - 10 yrs MOAB 1.20,21 “Do not call me Naomi – PLEASANT - call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty” >>> I am Bitter! God OUT to Get Me!!

If POST photos of Self on Social Media > Choose BEST Ones!

But in REAL Life some NOT So Flattering Photos of Each One of Us

God NOT Finished w/ Naomi – Promise of Paul 2000 yrs later > applied

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
 Philippians 1.6

Hebrew word HESED: Almost 300 X's OT > 3 X's in 4 chapters of Ruth

“mercy – lovingkindness – love – loyalty – faithfulness - goodness”

Ruth's refusal to leave Naomi? Hesed.

Ruth's willingness to glean for food? Hesed.

Boaz's Generous Care / Provision for Gleaner from Moab? Hesed.

Naomi devising a plan for Ruth to marry Boaz? Hesed.

God's LONG Game for those who Follow Him is HESED

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us” Psalm 103.9-13

Final PHOTOS of Naomi > Happy Granny not Alienated her Friends

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! 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.” 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse.

Jehovah Jireh was her Social Security > Redeemer was her Provider

Amazing Statement in Ethnocentric, Chauvinistic, Gossipy small Town B.

Ruth – Moabite Daughter in Law “more to you than 7 sons!”

Held Baby boy to her Bosom > Was EMPTY – God made her FULL!

Baby OBED --- GreatXX Gramp Baby in Beth. – Eternal Redemption!

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons”
Galatians 4.4,5

2. Faithful Servant of God

Boaz Instrument of God’s HESED to Widows in Need > Naomi & Ruth

Celebrated good BARLEY Harvest: Brewskis w/ Boys @ Threshing Floor

Woke in Middle of Night > Cold Feet > Pull Up Blanket

Woman in Party Dress – Exotic Perfume from Moab – Sleeping @ Feet!

Both NOBLE, God-fearing People > Boaz Righteous Man will Redeemer

3.9 “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.” 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, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. 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.”
Early AM Ruth in Party Dress slogs 80 lbs Barley home N Mother/in/Law

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.”

Naomi returns to PLACE where she had first SET her HOPE on God

Law of Moses Safety Net of God for Poor: Gleaning, Kinsman Redeemer

Biblical Faith > Foundation of Social Services for Community: Justice

NOT part of Greek, Roman, Ancient Cultures > Mercy for Strangers

RED CROSS > Sacrificial LOVE for Unknown, UNDESERVING

Seen this Around World > Real Love in Action > Name of Jesus

Seeing Right Now across Channel in Maui – Xtians, Not Gov’t Leading

2.1 “a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name is Boaz”

Dependable – Prompt – Reliable > Do ALL he could do to Settle Matter

When I Grow Up I want to be Like BOAZ!

4.1 Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there.

Town GATE > Legal, Social, Commercial Center: Conducted Formal Matters at Gate

4.1 “And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by”

‘behold’ Look at That! Wow! > Just so Happens Right Guy on the HOOD

So Boaz said, “Turn aside, friend; sit down here.” And he turned aside and sat down.

v. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down. >

Panel of Impartial Witnesses // Jury Trial

10 Men = Synagogue / QUROM > No Backroom Deal: Sunshine Law

v. 3 Boaz to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. 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.’

So Far > Sounds like SWEET Deal > Elimelech’s Land become his

N. Old > NO Chance of Having Kids > Die Soon > Add LAND to his!!

4.4 “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.**” > Do you think I am STUPID??

4.5 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.”

Bit EXTRA Baggage w/ Purchase of LAND / Moabite! Young Widow

Have KIDS with Ruth > Her KIDS will Inherit Land > Maybe BRAT?

BRACES, FOOD BUDGET, PIANO LESSONS, COLLEGE TUITION

4.6 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.”

>> RAN Away like COILED SNAKE Ready to STRIKE!

SHAMEFUL to Refuse > Failure to Love own Family > Care for Needy

‘My husband's brother refuses to perpetuate his brother's name in Israel; he will not perform the duty of a husband's brother to me.’ Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him, and if he persists, saying, ‘I do not wish to take her,’ then his brother's wife shall go up to him in the presence of the elders and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face. And she shall answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.’ And the name of his house shall be called in Israel, ‘The house of him who had his sandal pulled off.’
Deuteronomy 25.7-10

4.7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. 8 So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off his sandal. >>>No Mention of Spitting in Face?? Yikes!

3. Names that Live Forever

Ruth 4 is about PRESERVING NAMES

NAME of Person forgotten when LAND is Lost

3 Characteristics of those whose NAMES are Remembered...

a. Servants

4.9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. 10 Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.” 11 Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses.

Elimelech – Naomi – Chilion – Mahlon – Ruth > Boaz Redeems Names

Boaz makes SACRIFICES for his Wife – Mother in Law – their Son

Boaz NAME is Forever Remembered because of his Service

Kingdom of God is Upside Down / Giving is Way to Get

Vs. 1-8 Man who REFUSES to Serve: More Qualified to Redeem

Man Calculated / Redeeming was LOSING – Giving w/ NO RETURN

Throwing INVESTMENT Down into Dark Hole > Never Seen Again

Enjoy Retirement – Wife collects Spoons – Go on Cruises – Rose Garden

IRONY: Because he Protected Legacy >NAME Forever Forgotten

Notice what Scripture Never tells us? Man's Name – 'Mr So & So'

Many in Church reason like Mr So & So – What's in it for Me?

Will I Enjoy It? Will I be Fulfilled? Will My Needs be Met?

Ruth used Different Calculation > Her Fulness came thru Emptiness

Ruth to Naomi: "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." Ruth 1.16,17

Both N & R had NOTHING in Moab or Israel > N. had True, Living God

Ruth's Calculation – Almighty God + Nothing = Everything!

Israelites believed MOAB was Scandalous & Shameful Place

Boaz says with Pride & Boldness 4.10 "Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife"

Worthy Woman, Works Long, Hard Hrs - Loyal Love for God & Family

She SOUGHT God and His Kingdom FIRST > Renounced gods Moab

Declared & Demonstrated LOYALTY to God unto DEATH

Naomi lost 2 Sons GAINED Daughter in Law worth 7 Sons

Kingdom Calculation > Highest Value on what God thinks of Us

BOTH God's Blessing & Blessing of Bethlehem was upon them:

4.11 all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman." 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. 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!

Rachel & Leah built up House of Israel / Perez: Tamar bore to Judah

Perhaps Conventional Blessing given to Married Couples in Bethlehem

v 13 Beyond Convention Direct Intervention of God: O = **Servant of God**

Names that Live Forever > b. Sinners

Few years ago Atheist Society > Tract to DISPROVE Xtianity

Real Story of Terrible Believers – Abe told dangerous lies Re: Wife

Moses – David – Paul > MURDERERS / Peter > DENIED Jesus 3 X's

Xtians THANKED Atheists helping spread Good News Saving Grace

v. 12 “like the house of Perez whom TAMAR bore to Judah” Genesis 38

Both Ruth/Tamar Outsiders: Gentiles > Marriages were Suspicious

R&T LOST Husbands/Childless / Dressed Up to seek a Better Future

R Revealed Self to Boaz > Bore Legitimate Son OBED in Marriage

T Concealed Self / Deceived Judah > Bore Son outside of Marriage

Both Women & Sons: Play impt Role in Providence & Salvation of God

Both Women Named in Genealogy Jesus: Matthew 1 > 4 Women:

Tamar > Dressed like Prostitute / Rahab > Really was Prostitute

Ruth despised Foreigner: Moab! / Bathsheba seduced by David

If 4 Women were Sketchy > Men in Matt 1 downright SINFUL

Remarkable procession of Great Unwashed > Ohana of Jesus of Nazareth

God's Angel says: “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1.21

Names that Live Forever > Servants > Sinners > c. Saved

1.1 “In the days when the judges ruled...” – 400 yrs Trouble in ISRAEL

Headline/Last Verse: “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in their own eyes.” Judges 21.25

Last Word in Book of Ruth: 4.22 “...DAVID” - Great King of Israel

4 Chapters – Slice of Life > 3 Simple People: Naomi, Ruth, Boaz

“Ants” – Camera pulls Back > World of Ants > Central Park in NYC!

Ruth is like UNFINISHED Symphony > GLORY Revealed in Jesus

Ruth had Baby Boy in Bethlehem...few decades later King David born B.

Fullness of Time > Skies over Bethlehem filled with 1000's ANGELS

Son of God BORN in Back Alley in Bethlehem

David's Son became David's Lord > He sits on David's Throne Forever!

"...and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"
Isaiah 9.6

Apostle Peter: "let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead...And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
Acts 4.10,12

WT Shorter Catechism Q. 21 Who is the only redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Ruth ⁴ Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. ² And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. ³ Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. ⁴ 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." ⁵ 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." ⁶ 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." ⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸ So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. ¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day." ¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, ¹² and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman." 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. 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! 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." ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁸ 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.

Our God and Father, we come in the Matchless Name of your Son, our Kinsman Redeemer, the Lord Jesus.

From the end of this ancient story, we look with hope to the consummation of your Story. Help us to have no regrets. Forgive us for remaining in Moab, trusting gods that cannot save.

Forgive us for turning inward and bitter, too many times.

Forgive us for thinking hardships mean You are "out to get us!"

Forgive us for retreating from service as we nurse our pity.

Forgive us for trying to achieve your purposes with our plans.

Lord, in your loyal love, your Covenant mercies, hear our prayer and forgive our sins.

Prayer of Reflection and Confession

There is a redeemer - Jesus, God's own Son - Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Name above all names.

Thank you Jesus for Redeeming us at such enormous cost.

We long to gather with countless multitudes from all centuries, continents, and cultures to worship you.

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Thank you oh my Father, for giving us your Son,

And leaving your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done. Amen.