

Week of 05-14-2023

Series: The Story, Ch. 4, Pt. 5

Sermon: A Little Book with a Big Surprise

Text: Ruth 1-4

Sermon Outline:

Chapter 1 - Ruth's Repentance

- She leaves her old life behind.
- She commits herself to God.

Chapter 2 - Ruth's Redeemer

- She searches for meaning (*in her new faith*).
- She recognizes Boaz as her Savior.

Chapter 3 - Ruth's Request

- She makes herself ready.
- She purposes marriage.

Chapter 4 - Ruth's Reward

- She marries Boaz.
- They have a son.

The Big Surprise

- Boaz represents Jesus.
- Ruth represents you.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1:15-18. Naomi had lost both her sons and Ruth had lost her husband. Ruth could have returned to Moab, and embraced her culture, religion, marriage, and a good name (*as opposed to the name a Moabite would have in Bethlehem*). Instead, Ruth made the decision to burn the ships and follow God. If applicable, what ships did you burn when you decided to follow Jesus?
2. Read 2:3. Ruth just “happened” to end up in the section of the field owned by Boaz. The *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary* defines “happened” as: “*something met with, i.e. an accident or fortune.*” As you consider your journey leading up to becoming a Christian and your journey with Jesus since then, what are some small events that “happened” to end up being significant?
3. Read 3:3-13. God cleanses the new believer, anoints them with the Holy Spirit, and clothes them with righteousness, as they submit themselves at the feet of Jesus, who is our redeemer. The redeemer must be related, must be able to pay, and must be willing to pay. Boaz is a shadow of Jesus (*our true kinsman redeemer*) and Ruth is a picture of you (*a gentile who needs a kinsman redeemer as savior*). How has going through “The Story” sermon series so far helped you see Jesus in all the Scriptures? Is it incredible that the Bible from beginning to end is simply pointing to Him?
4. Read 4:13-22. Matthew 1 (*through Joseph*) and Luke 3 (*through Mary*) give us the lineage of Jesus. Both lineages trace back to Obed, the son of Boaz and Ruth (*Matthew 1:5 & Luke 3:32*). There are lots of stories that could be told about each one of Jesus' ancestors. Why do you think God decided to record Ruth's story?