



Celebrating Life in the Shadow of Death!

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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 Sinclair Ferguson, *Faithful God: An Exposition of Ruth*, 2005.
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 Paul Miller, *A Loving Life*, 2014.
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Head: Understanding the Bible

1) Read Ruth 4. What does Boaz call the nearer redeemer? What's his name? Does God's law demand either Boaz or this other man to redeem Elimelech's family?

2) What does the way Boaz negotiate tell you about his desire to redeem Naomi and marry Ruth?

Option 1: Buy the land and care for Naomi, an older woman for a few years and then the land is yours without any further obligation. There is minimal risk or cost.

Option 2: Buy the land and care for Naomi AND marry Ruth. Support younger Ruth for the rest of her life, along with any children she may have. These children will have Elimelech's last name, not yours. And once the children are grown the land you purchase goes to the kids.¹

- 3) What is significant about Rachel and Leah? What's significant about the line of Judah? What then are the people of Bethlehem asking God to do?
- 4) Compare Tamar's story in Genesis 38 with Ruth. Why are people talking about Tamar's story as a good thing?
- 5) Does Ruth have a 'Cindarella' ending? What is the final picture (before the genealogy)? Who have these dramatic acts of love (hesed) been done for? How has God restored to Naomi what was lost?

¹ Miller, p. 142.

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

“The book of Ruth—wherein goodness grows out of goodness, and the extraordinary is found here, and here, and here—is sown in desertion, bereavement, barrenness, death, loss, displacement, destitution. What can sprout from such ash? Then Ruth sees into the nature of Covenant, and the life of the story streams in. Out of this stalk mercy and redemption unfold: flowers flood Ruth’s feet...until the coming of the Messiah from the shoot of David, in the line of Ruth and Naomi.” ~ Cynthia Ozick (Quoted in Miller, 153)

6) Ruth is unashamed of the brutalities of life east of Eden. What has Naomi lost? The nearer redeemer is left nameless, called “Mr. So&So.” It’s an insult to someone who valued the bottom line more than God’s people. How would you like to be remembered? What if you were remembered as “Mr/Mrs/Ms What’s your name?” How does our need for a kinsman-redeemer point to our need for a greater redeemer?

7) Let’s push this picture further. Read Ecclesiastes 1:2-3. According to Ecclesiastes and our experience, is any inheritance safe?

8) Enter the birth of the son. Read 4:14-15. Who are the people praising? How does Jesus’ birth give hope to God’s people? Compare Naomi & Obed’s inheritance to ours in Christ (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

9) Orpah and Mr. “So&So” are left out of the celebration of grace at the end of the book because they valued the wrong things. What would leave you out of God’s story?

10) Ruth and Boaz leave a legacy of love and sacrifice. What kind of legacy does the gospel call us to leave through our love and sacrifice? Write down a prayer for your children’s (physical & spiritual) legacy. If you don’t have kids, pray for the kids at Hope Church and for non-believers that you know.

11) The community of God’s people celebrates the gift of resurrection brought to Naomi through Boaz & Ruth’s work. What can we as the church learn from this?