

Ruth Handout Week Twelve

- Ground level: What is actually happening
- Kingdom level: How is the kingdom advancing
- Jesus level: Who is getting saved, from what and how?
- You level: How does this story inform your walk/the church's purpose.

3:1 Then (sometime later) Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek rest (security/ a quiet place/a home) for you, that it may be well (pleasing/good) with you? 2 Now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight. 3 Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself (rub nice oil on your body) and put on your best clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do."

Contrasts between 1st and 2nd meeting with Boaz:

Naomi believes in the providence of God.

1:9 The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!"

So what is she doing? Does moving, even in a somewhat desperate way, negate belief in the sovereignty of God?

Whitfield-- All men are immortal until their work on earth is done.

Safety nets.

Purposeful ambiguity:

Flawed-- Rest? Gen.8:8 manoch Are you at rest? How do you know? Whose kingdom are you building?

What is Naomi getting right?

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What is our rest? Mat. 11:28, Lk. 19:41, Jn. 20:21

Sketchy—

Winnowing on the threshing floor: Isa. 41:14

History-David, Gideon, Peter, Jesus, Daniel

Suggestive Details-

Lev. 18:6, 1 Sam. 24:3, Ezek. 16:25

Why?

Is sacrificial love even possible?

5 She said to her, "All that you say I will do."

Naomi and remaining questions...

The kingdom and redemption.

Gen. 19 Lot's daughters

Gen. 38 Tamar

Esther

Sometimes the women know. Men who love and serve God...

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had commanded her. 7 When Boaz had eaten and drunk and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain;

He is lying at the end of the heap of grain:

and she came secretly/softly, and uncovered his feet and lay down. 8 It happened in the middle of the night that the man was startled (shuddered) and bent forward (grasped); and behold, a woman was lying at his feet.

Midnight-

The stirring-

9 He said, "Who are you?"

And she answered, "*I am Ruth* your maidservant (amah).

Spread your covering (kanaph/wing) over your maidservant (amah), for you are a close relative (a gaal/ a redeemer)."

Ezek. 16:7

2:12 May the Lord reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, *under whose wings (kanaph)* you have come to seek refuge."

The force of her appeal rests on _____ he is rather than _____ he is obligated to do.

This is not _____. This is _____

10 Then he said, "May you be blessed of the LORD, my daughter. You have shown your last kindness to be better than the first by not going after young men (habbahurim/eligible bachelors), whether poor or rich. 11 Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence.

Boaz the redeemer

And now:

Do not fear:

Ruth the redeemer

The first kindness

The last kindness

Whether rich or poor:

Phil. 2:1

Jn. 13:12

Discussion

1. What is one thing you admire about each of these characters?

What is a characteristic you see in one of them that you would like to have more of? What would it take to get there?

2 If Boaz is the Christ figure, literally, where did Ruth find redemption? See verses

Lk. 10:38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted...

Lk. 7:37 And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

Lk. 8:35 The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind;

3. What does it take-- psychologically, socially- to sit at someone's feet? Obviously, Jesus is no longer physically with us, but can we still sit at His feet? How?

4. Pray for each other.