

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Lessons from Ruth

Good morning, today we are in week 12 in our sermon series...

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Take your bibles and turn with me to the book of Ruth. Let me give you a quick overview of the book and then I want us to see what lessons we can learn from the book.

The events of the book **took place during the time period of the judges** and as we saw last week it was a time of **rebellion and punishment**. Do you remember how the book of Judges ended?

Judges 21:25 (NKJV) – 25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Ruth on the other hand will end this way...

Ruth 4:22 (NKJV) – 22 Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

A king is on the way! The book of Ruth is **transitional**, it's the **bridge** between Judges and 1 Samuel.

Ruth is like a good Hallmark movie, a story **filled with hope and love**.

The book opens with tragedy and despair in the land of Moab with the death of Naomi's husband and sons. The family had traveled there to escape the **famine in Israel**.

After the famine was over Naomi decides to **head back home** and Ruth accompanies her, and the rest of the **book focuses Boaz and Ruth**.

That's a quick overview, now let me give you **four lessons** from the book I want to highlight.

1. Even in Dark Days God is at Work, 1:1, 19-21

The book opens with these words...

Ruth 1:1 (NKJV) — 1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

At times it seems like the **darkness is overtaking the light**. The world in which we live seems like it's getting darker and darker every day. **Paul said these times were coming...**

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NKJV) — 1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

We shouldn't be surprised by what we are seeing. **But there is still hope! God is at work** around us...He has **not abandoned us!**

But not only was the nation experiencing dark times but **so was Naomi...**

Ruth 1:19–21 (NKJV) — 19 Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" 20 But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 21 I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

Maybe like Naomi you are experiencing some dark days...like a good friend of mine who found **out this week that his 11-year-old grand-daughter** has stage 4 brain cancer. That's a dark moment!

But God is present! He is in the midst of your pain! He has promised...

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) — 5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

We cannot see it now but He...

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) — 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

I don't know **how He does it**, all I know is that I have **trust Him when** I'm in the dark. I'm not saying it's easy, I'm just saying **that may be all we have** in the moment. So, **Cling to Him!!!!**

Next, I want you to see...

2. Loyalty is a Virtue

Ruth 1:16–17 (NKJV) — 16 But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.”

Ruth's loyalty to Naomi is impressive, especially when you consider her words.

- She would be **leaving the familiar** – family, homeland, customs
- She **didn't know the future** – widowhood, childless

And yet she **choose to remain faithful** to Naomi and...

- **Naomi's people would be her new people**
- **Naomi's home would be her new home**
- **Naomi's God would be her God**

Wait! Hit the pause button! Her faith in God is remarkable. She is leaving the idol worship of the Moabites to **embrace by faith the God of Israel**. Even after hearing Naomi say...

Ruth 1:21 (NKJV) — 21 I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

I believe the reason why she followed God is not simply because of the testimony of Naomi, but I believe something more important is at play. I believe God in His providence and love was drawing Ruth to Himself. Don't forget He was at work behind the scenes and that meant He was working in the heart of Ruth. Just as He worked in our heart to draw us to Himself.

3. Your Reputation Will Precedes You

Ruth 2:11–12 (NKJV) — 11 And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. 12 The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.”

Ruth 3:10–11 (NKJV) — 10 Then he said, “Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

Ruth had a reputation around town, and it was a good. We are reminded in...

Proverbs 22:1 (NKJV) — 1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.

This proverb reminds you that your reputation is...

- **Your Choice – Choose a Good Name**

(We all have three names)

1. The one your parents gave you
2. The one that others call you
3. The one you make for yourself

Your lifestyle determines what name you choose for yourself

- **A Valuable Asset – Rather than Riches**
 - Worth far more than money and material possessions
 - Worth far more than any compromise we can make
 - Worth far more than any pleasure we can indulge in
- **Beloved – Loving Favor**

What is your reputation; what do others say about you?

Pastor Johnny Hunt says;

“The testimony we leave behind will be either a lovely fragrance or a foul stench.”

The **apostle Peter** says it this way...

1 Peter 2:12 (NKJV) — 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Lastly, I want you to see that...

4. Jesus is Our Kinsman Redeemer

Ruth 4:22 (NKJV) — 22 Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

The book ends with a **promise of a king** to bring stability and hope to the nation...David was that king. But there is **another lineage to be considered!**

Look at...

Matthew 1:5–16 (NKJV) — 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. 7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. 8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. 9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. 10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and

Amon begot Josiah. 11 Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. 12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. 13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. 14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. 15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. 16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

Our Savior came from the line of Boaz and Ruth! AMESOME!!!!

Jesus is our kinsman redeemer...

And just as Ruth came to Boaz...

- Empty Handed
- Humble
- Nothing to offer
- Foreigner

We have nothing to offer Christ...He redeemed us!

CONCLUSION:

1. Come to Christ the Kinsman Redeemer and be Saved