

“Defining the Relationship”

Book of Ruth series, 2.25.24

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The **decisions** you make **today** will determine the **story** you tell **tomorrow**. But even if you don't **get it right**, God can still **make it right**.



One day Ruth’s mother-in-law Naomi said to her, “My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. Now Boaz ... is a relative of ours. Tonight, he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don’t let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.” “I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered. So, she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet! “Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family.”

“The Lord bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I.

Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.” So, she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.” **Ruth 3:1-14**

Providence—when God uses **natural circumstances** to bring about his **supernatural will**.

Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, “Come over here, my friend, and sit down.” So, he went over and sat down. Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.” “I will redeem it,” he said. “Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.” At this, the guardian-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.” **Ruth 4:1-6**

Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”

So, Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! ¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.” **Ruth 4:11-15**

God can turn **brokenness** into **blessing**, and that **blessing** can change a **legacy**.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. **Romans 3:23-25a**

Discussion questions

1. Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
2. If you had to name the current “chapter” of life you’re in, what would you name it? What would you name the next “chapter” you’re planning for?
3. Read Ruth 3-4 and summarize in your own words. What qualities do you see in Ruth and Boaz as they’re honoring God with their lives? Do you know someone with similar qualities?
4. As we navigate different seasons of life, we won’t always get it right. Share about either:
 - a. A time when you didn’t make the best choice, but God still made it right. What did you learn about Him through that experience?
 - b. A pivotal moment/experience in your life where you now see the providence of God as you look back on that time?
5. What do faith-filled prayers look like to you? What prayers are you waiting for God to answer? Share these with your group and spend time praying together.
6. Think about your daily habits and routines. Find one new way to honor God in your daily life and share about it with your group.
7. **Prayer for the week:** *Father, thank You for being the perfect Author of our lives and for giving us your Word to help us better understand how we can follow you. Please give us wisdom and discernment as we navigate relationships. We know that we won’t always get it right, but we trust that you use all things for our good even when we don’t see or understand. Help us to honor you in our daily decisions. In Jesus’ name, amen.*