

REDEMPTION IN THE WAITING

Sunday, December 15

RUTH 3: SUMMARY

Ruth 3 brings us to a pivotal moment in the story of Ruth. After weeks of gleaning in Boaz's field, Ruth follows Naomi's advice and approaches Boaz at the threshing floor, seeking his protection and redemption as her kinsman-redeemer. Ruth's bold and humble actions reveal her faith and trust in Naomi's guidance and Boaz's character. Boaz responds with kindness and a promise: "Do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask... As the Lord lives, I will redeem you" (Ruth 3:11, 13).

However, redemption takes time. Boaz must resolve a legal matter with a closer relative, leaving Ruth to wait. The story invites us to trust God's providence and timing, even when outcomes are uncertain. Ruth's boldness, Boaz's integrity, and Naomi's growing faith showcase how God works behind the scenes, weaving His redemptive purposes even in seasons of waiting.

CONNECTING RUTH AND ADVENT

Ruth 3 highlights the theme of waiting for redemption, making it a profound Advent story. Just as Ruth and Naomi waited for Boaz to fulfill his promise, the world waited for the Messiah. This story points us forward to Jesus, the ultimate Redeemer, who came at the perfect time to rescue and restore. During Advent, we are reminded that God is at work in our waiting, using ordinary acts of faith and obedience to fulfill His extraordinary plans.

We exist to connect Jesus to people, people to community, and community to mission. Let's explore how Ruth 3 connects to our mission as a church...

JESUS TO PEOPLE

In Ruth 3, Boaz's role as kinsman-redeemer points us to Jesus, who redeems us fully and eternally. Ruth placed herself at Boaz's feet, trusting his character and ability to protect and provide. Similarly, Advent reminds us that we are called to place ourselves at Jesus' feet, trusting in His power to redeem us.

Boaz's promise to Ruth, "Do not fear... I will redeem you," mirrors the assurance we find in Christ. Redemption is certain, though waiting is often part of the journey. This truth challenges us to trust God's timing, even in the "not yet" of our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How does Ruth's trust in Boaz reflect the trust we are called to have in Jesus as our Redeemer?
- In what ways does the story of Ruth 3 challenge you to trust God's timing in your life?
- How does Boaz's kindness and integrity give us a picture of Christ's character?
- How has God worked in your seasons of waiting, even when you couldn't see it at the time?
- In what ways do Boaz's actions typify the work of Christ?

PEOPLE TO COMMUNITY

The relationship between Ruth and Naomi deepens in this chapter as Naomi encourages Ruth to seek Boaz's redemption. This reminds us that God often uses relationships to guide and support us during

