

FROM MOAB TO MISERY TO
MARRIAGE TO MOTHERHOOD TO
THE MESSIAH
RUTH 4

Text: Ruth 4:11

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And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:

Introduction:

The book of Ruth opens with a family leaving the place of bread and going to Moab. It opens with three funerals but closes with a wedding. There was a good deal of weeping recorded at the beginning of this story, but the last chapter records an abundance of joy in the little town of Bethlehem.

Psalm 30:5

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Not all of life's stories have this kind of happy ending, but this story reminds us that for the Christian "God still writes the last chapter.". We don't have to be afraid of the future.

This last chapter focuses on three people; a bride groom, a bride and a baby.

As we close this story I want us to consider the summary of the entire story with this thought in mind, From Moab, to Misery, To Marriage, To Motherhood, To the Messiah.

1. MOAB

We understand that nothing good happens in Moab. It will most often end with loss, and misery.

2. MISERY

A. The loss of a husband and two sons for Naomi.

B. Leaving bitter and empty.

3. MARRIAGE (4:1-12)

A. We have to deal with the issues that God allows to come our direction.

- Boaz could have asked Ruth to run away with him, but Boaz dealt with the issues that faced him biblically.
- When we are facing situations and issues in our lives we too need to deal with them according to God's Word.

B. God has a way of working things out.

God knew that the next of kin would not redeem Ruth so that Boaz could.

God has a purpose and a plan for our lives. Even the lost He has a plan of salvation.

4. MOTHERHOOD (13-14)

Ruth 4:13-14

So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son. [14] And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

- Obed was born. His name means to serve, and His name will be famous for certain in Bethlehem, for he was 24th great grandfather of Jesus.
- God loved Ruth and Boaz and he brought them together. But He also brought them together because He loves you and me. Through this unlikely pair, God brought redemption to you and me.

Close:

Naomi had had a rough life, but now she was restored through the new life she held in her hands.

Ruth 4:16

And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

Naomi was holding her redemption.

Think about where Naomi had come from. Remember in Ch 1, Naomi said, “Don’t call me Naomi, call me Mara. I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty.

Naomi had given up all hope, but God had other plans.

The story doesn't end with the picture of Naomi holding this newborn baby.

Years later a baby would be born in Bethlehem, live a sinless life, and purchase our redemption, not with money, but with His life.

He died to make us free. He paid the debt that we could not pay for ourselves, and He is willing to redeem all who desire His redemption. He died so that we might live

John 6:37

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Romans 10:9-13

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. [11] For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. [12] For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. [13] For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Like Ruth and Orpah, some desire redemption, while others are happy to live their life without redemption.

But one day that will all change. And for those who have not been redeemed, they'll wish over and over, I wished I allowed the Lord to redeem me.

Others are like Naomi, you have hindered or failed to encourage others. Naomi had at one time encouraged Ruth and Orpah to remain in Moab. How sad it is when we don't do our best to lead people to the redeemer.

This story has a happy ending for Naomi and Ruth. How will the story end for you?