Ruth 2

Review…

- **Overview of the book of Ruth…**
  - The book of Ruth takes place during the time of the book of Judges...
    - Israel was 'doing what was right in their own eyes' - **Judges 21:25**...
    - And the book of Judges showed us how that devastated Israel as a nation...
    - The book of Ruth shows us how that devastated a single family...
  - The book of Ruth is one of the most beautiful love stories ever recorded...
    - The whole story is an 'illustration' of the Love story of Jesus and the church...
    - Making the book of Ruth one of the most powerful books of the Old Testament!
- **Ruth 1 - The introduction to the Love Story…**
  - A tragic beginning - there was a famine in the Land of Israel (*result of the cycle of sin*)...
    - Elimelech from Bethlehem (*house of bread*) - left to live in Moab (*cursed land*)...
    - He died along with his two sons - Mahlon (*sickly*) and Chilion (*failing*)...
    - Leaving his wife Naomi (*Pleasant*) with two daughter-in-laws - Orpah and Ruth...
  - Naomi heard God had blessed Israel again - decided to return to Bethlehem...
    - She told her daughter-in-laws to return to their families - she had no sons to marry...
    - Orpah left - but Ruth clung to Naomi - vowed she would never leave her side!
    - When Naomi arrived with Ruth in Bethlehem - she changed her name to Mara - bitter!

Boaz and Ruth… (*3 things*)

- **1st - A man called Boaz…vs. 1-3** Read: Ruth 2:1-3
  - 1st - Boaz (*strength*) was a wealthy and influential man... vs. 1
    - He was a close relative of Elimelech (*the dead husband of Naomi*)...
      - Elimelech because of the famine in Israel had walked away from the Lord...
      - As a result Elimelech died and Naomi had a very hard life / and was very poor...
      - But Boaz had not left Bethlehem during the famine - and as a result was blessed!
    - We are all going to face hard times - we all go through trials - 'famines' in life...
      - **Matthew 5:45** - "[God] lets rain fall on them whether they are good or bad."
      - The question is what do we do / where do we go when those hard times come...
      - If we are not drawing closer to the Lord - then we are drifting away...
      - It is easy to justify ourselves - even if we are drifting into the world...
      - But being blessed in life has everything to do with staying close to Jesus!
  - 2nd - Ruth asked Naomi if she could go gather leftover corn... vs. 2
    - God had designed a plan to take care of the needs of the poor and unfortunate...
      - It was called the 'law of gleaning' - or collecting the leftover crops...
      - **Leviticus19:9** - "When you harvest your crops, do not harvest the corn along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop."
      - When someone harvested their crops - they were to leave some for the poor...
      - The corners of the field - and anything that they accidentally dropped...
      - It allowed for Israel to be a blessing - give to those who were in need...

- It was not given for free - you still had to work...
  - The food was not gathered and given to the poor - they had to work to collect it...
  - **II Thessalonians 3:10** - "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."
  - We are called to bless those who are in need - but not to encourage laziness...
- 3rd - Ruther 'happened' to end up in the field of Boaz... vs. 3
  - Ruth and Naomi had no food - so Ruth went to work and faced their problem...
    - Often the way we try and deal with problems – is to pretend they do not exist...
    - If I ignore the problem – maybe it will go away – I just pretend everything is great…
    - But problems that we ignore – just become much bigger problems...
    - The only way to make a problem go away – is to face it head on...
    - Like the homework assignment – that if you ignore it – will just not go away...
    - Like having no money / no work / no food – and ignoring the problem...
    - Nothing changes – you cannot run from problems – they wait for you…
  - God is sovereign / in control of everything – and will lead us if we are willing try...
    - So often we want God to take care of all our needs - as we sit on the couch...
    - God has not called us to 'sit by faith' we are to 'walk by faith' – **II Corinthians 5:17**
    - When we are willing to take that step of faith - we will find God leading our steps...
    - **Psalms 37:23** - "The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives."
  - God provided for Ruth and Naomi in a very ordinary way...
    - They did not 'win the lotto' and there was not 'manna from heaven'...
    - Ruth went out to work in the field - and God miraculously took care of their needs!
    - Often when God does take care of us – He uses very natural means...
    - Yet God somehow takes those natural means and supernaturally provides!

- **2ND - THE BEGINNING OF THE RELATIONSHIP...VS. 4-17 (4 THINGS)** READ: RUTH 2:4-17
  - 1st - Busy serving the Lord... vs. 4
    - Boaz arrived from Bethlehem to see how the harvest was going...
      - He greeted his workers - 'The Lord bless you' / they answered ' the Lord bless you!'
      - Boaz was a Godly man loved by his workers - because he was fair to them...
      - He had a foreman who paid his workers every day - **Deuteronomy 24:14-15**
      - And he made sure they had a relationship with the Lord...
    - He used his position / every opportunity - to be a light for God!
      - **Ephesians 5:16** - "Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days."
      - We tend to fill our days with things that in the end - mean absolutely nothing...
      - We 'waste' our time 'foolishly' on being mindlessly entertained by TV / games...
      - When there is a world full of people who do not know Jesus - a world going to hell...
      - Seize the moment - use every day - to tell people about Jesus Christ!
  - 2nd - Meeting for the first time... vs. 5-7
    - Apparently Ruth was a VERY beautiful woman - she immediately caught Boaz eye...
      - The foreman told Boaz Ruth had been there since morning working hard...
      - She had asked the foreman permission to gather behind the harvesters...
      - Ruth was from Moab - the daughter-in-law of Naomi...
      - Beautiful / hard Working / loved family /and was polite - Boaz was in Love!
    - Boaz was busy serving God - looked up and there was his bride...

- If you want to find a spouse – be busy about your Heavenly Father's business...
- Not seeking a wife/husband – but taking the time to seek and pray to Jesus...
- Then one day we will look up - and find God has 'led' your spouse into your 'field'!

▪ Marriage is very good - **Proverbs 18:22** – "He who finds a wife finds a good thing..."
- Yet there is wisdom in being very careful on deciding whom to marry...
- It is a decision that will last the rest of your life – for better or worse
- So when you are considering whom to marry - make sure you choose wisely...
- If the person does no 'catch your eye' - they may not be the one for you...
- Make sure you enjoy spending time with them - they will be your best friend for life
- Choose a spouse who is hard working - has good family values...
- Above all else make sure that they have a love for Jesus Christ...
- Be honest with yourself - do not make excuses - 'we are in love'...
- Do not make the mistake of getting married thinking the person will change...
- Who a person is before marriage - will not change after the marriage!

o 3rd - Getting to know each other... vs. 8-13

▪ Boaz came up to Ruth and told her to remain in his fields...
- She could come every day and see where the harvesters were working and follow...
  - He had warned the young men to leave her alone (*she was beautiful after all*)...
  - And if she was thirsty she was welcome to draw water from their well...
- Boaz did not propose to Ruth on the spot - he wanted to watch her for a while...
  - I know a lot of guys who want to marry a girl the day they meet her...
  - If you ask a girl to marry you the day you meet her - she will likely slap you!
  - Slow down - take your time and get to know her - let her get to know you...
  - A woman does not fall in love in a day - it takes time to win her heart!

▪ Ruth fell at Boaz feet - 'why are you being so kind to me a foreigner....'
- Boaz had heard about Ruth's love and kindness to Naomi...
  - He knew Ruth had left her family to come and live among complete strangers...
  - May the Lord under whose wings you have come to take refuge - bless you!
- It is easy to look like a Godly man / woman for a day - but time tells the truth...
  - When I first was dating Jen - I would never burp - I was a gentleman...
  - But it did not take long for her to find out - that was not the real me!
  - Perhaps a guy will come to church for a week/month to impress a girl...
  - But he does not really have a love for the Lord it will not last...
  - It is not enough to know about a person - you have to get to know them!

▪ Ruth hoped to continue to please Boaz...
- He had comforted her with his words - even though she did not work for him...
- A rich and handsome man was showing kindness and generosity to Ruth...
- She was certainly interested in getting to know him - but no too quickly...
- It is important for a woman to not be too aggressive with a guy...
- If a guy is not willing to put in an effort / pursue a woman - he is not worth it...
- One of the things I did when I was dating Jen was make a scrapbook for her...
- It took me about 100 hours of work to put it together - but it was a labor of love...
- The man who is worth marrying is a man who knows how much his wife is worth!

o 4th - Going on a first date... vs. 14-17

- Boaz invited Ruth to have lunch with him...
  - They shared roasted corn - and Ruth ate till she was full - with extra left over!
  - As a young couple it is good to go out on a dates - to help get to know each other...
  - It is also a good idea to go with others - or go out to a very public place - not alone...
  - You do not want to put yourself in a place where you could be tempted to sin!
- When Ruth went back to work - Boaz instructed his workers...
  - Ruth was to be allowed to gather corn right alone with the workers...
  - And they were to 'accidentally drop' extra for her to pick up...
  - As a result Ruth was able to gather 30kg of corn in a single day!
  - Want to win a woman's heart - shower her with gifts / blessings to show your love...
  - Women love it when a man 'leaves' special gifts to show their affection!

- **3RD - GETTING TO KNOW THE FAMILY...VS. 17-23** READ: RUTH 2:17-
  - 1st - Ruth went into the city - and showed Naomi what she had gleaned... vs. 18-19
    - Ruth also gave to Naomi the left over roasted corn from her lunch...
      - When Naomi saw the great abundance - she asked where Ruth had been working!
      - Ruth told her about Boaz - and the kindness he had shown to her...
      - Naomi told Ruth to stay in the fields of Boaz - not to go anywhere else!
    - So Ruth stayed in Boaz field 3 months - April (*barley harvest*) - June (*wheat harvest*)...
      - I am sure Boaz made it a point to be there for lunch every day...
      - There is no set amount of time for how long you should date before marriage...
      - I have known couples who got married after a week / others after 10 years...
      - It would seem it is best to wait at least a few months - get to know one another...
      - At the same time not wait too long - the danger of falling into sexual sin...
      - As a suggestion (*opinion only*) it would seem 6 months - 1 year might be wise
  - 2nd - Naomi knew Boaz - he was a 'Goel' - a kinsmen redeemer...
    - The Goel or kinsmen redeemer - was a close relative...
      - **Leviticus 25 -** set out the Laws of redemption - the year of Jubilee...
      - If you had to sell you land in a time of need - a Goel could redeem it for you...
      - If a family member had been sold into slavery - a Goel could redeem them for you...
      - Also if a husband died with no children - a Goel could marry the widow!
      - This will all become VERY important once we get to Chapter 4 - points to Jesus!
    - For now - the point is Naomi knew Boaz - that he would be a good husband for Ruth...
      - Dads and Moms - get involved in lives of your kids - know whom they are dating...
      - When young people 'fall in love' - they do not always have the best perspective...
      - They can easily overlook problems - you know are going to cause problems one day
      - Marriage is too important - a life long decision - to make it carelessly...
      - Parents may not be able to make the choice for their kids - but they can help...
      - If nothing more they can pray - their child ends up finding a Ruth or a Boaz!