RUTH 3

REVIEW...

- Ruth 1 The introduction to the Love Story...
 - o 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...
 - o 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!
- Ruth 2 Boaz and Ruth...
 - o Ruth and Naomi had nothing to eat so Ruth went to glean in the harvest...
 - She ended up in the field of Boaz who inquired about her when he saw her working...
 - Beautiful / hard working / loved family / and was polite Boaz was in Love!
 - He invited Ruth to stay in his field so he could get to know her have lunch every day!
 - o Ruth told Naomi about what happened about Boaz...
 - Naomi recognized he was a Goel a kinsman redeemer for their family...
 - So Ruth stayed in Boaz field 3 months April (barley harvest) June (wheat harvest)...

THE ENGAGEMENT... (3 THINGS)

- 1st An arragned marriage...vs. 1-4 (3 things) Read: Ruth 3:1-4
 - o 1st Naomi told Ruth it was time to get married... vs. 1
 - According to the customs of the 'middle east' it was a parent who chose your spouse...
 - Naomi saw the blossoming relationship between Ruth and Boaz and it was time...
 - Ruth had come to believe in the God of Israel she was saved...
 - But it was not just about going to Heaven there was a love story unfolding...
 - So often when we talk about Jesus we only think about being saved from hell...
 - But not only does God want us all to go to heaven II Peter 3:9
 - God created us with a desire to have a loving relationship with Him...
 - Eternal life true life only comes from knowing God personally...
 - **John 17:3** "And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth."
 - o 2nd Naomi gave Ruth some practical advice to help her prepare...
 - Take and bath and put on some perfume a new dress...
 - This is good advice for anyone going on a date make yourself 'pretty'...
 - Amazingly most of us when we came to Jesus we were nothing much to look at...
 - **Song of Solomon 1:6** "Do not look down on me... because my complexion is so dark. The sun has burned my skin... Now see what it has done to me!"
 - We bear the marks / the scars of poor decisions / mistakes we have made...
 - Years of being lost in the world has left the dark stain of sin on us...

- But God does not see us as we are He sees us robed in the righteousness of Jesus...
 - **Song of Solomon 4:1-2, 7** "How beautiful you are, my beloved, how beautiful! You are so beautiful, my beloved, so perfect in every part."
 - God does not see us in light of our sin He sees us as we will one day be...
 - He sees us a beautiful / perfect / spotless / pure He sees us in the light of Jesus!
 - He thinks of us constantly and cannot wait till the day we are re-united...
 - **Psalms 138:17-18** "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I counted them... more in number than the sand."
- o 3rd Naomi also gave Ruth very unusual advice...
 - Ruth was to go to the threshing floor (where they separated the wheat from chaff)...
 - It was the end of the harvest so Boaz would be there working...
 - Ruth was to hide herself till after dinner then go and lie down at Boaz' feet...
 - This seems a bit odd to us at the very least very 'forward' on the part of Ruth...
 - It is certainly not an example a young woman should follow today...
 - If you want to marry a guy do not go and lie down at the feet of his bed!
 - Naomi was instructing Ruth on the Law of redemption...
 - According to **Deuteronomy 25:7-10** Ruth could have demanded Boaz marry her...
 - If Boaz had refused Ruth had the right to take him to the elders of the city...
 - If he still refused he had to remove his shoe and Ruth would spit in his face...
 - From then on he would be known as the man 'whose sandal was pulled off...
 - The idea of lying down at his feet was a sign of humility...
 - Ruth did not want to force Boaz to do anything she was giving him the choice...
 - Ruth went at night so if Boaz refused he would not be disgraced...
 - God has opened up the way for anyone to have this relationship with Him...
 - And He pursues us blessing us drawing us to Him by His goodness Romans 2:4
 - But God will not force us to accept Him we have to choose...
 - Revelation 22:17 "The Spirit [says]... 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!'"
 - You cannot force Love like any good 'love story' we have to fall for God!
- 2^{ND} The engagement...vs. 5-13 (4 things) Read: Ruth 3:5-13
 - 1st Ruth had a choice to obey / or to go her own way... vs. 5-6
 - Ruth did not question the advice of Naomi she obeyed...
 - She went down to the threshing floor THAT NIGHT and followed the instructions...
 - If Ruth had chosen not to listen she would not have married Boaz!
 - Naomi is a picture of the Word of God...
 - The Word gives us explicit instructions on how to have a relationship with God...
 - We are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ Ephesians 2:8-9
 - We can choose to follow those instructions or we can go our own way...
 - We might think if we have a membership at a certain church...
 - Or if we our best to live our lives being a good person God will accept us...
 - The problem is the only way to get to know Jesus is by following His Word!
 - **Romans 3:30** "There is only one God, and there is only one way of being accepted by him. He makes people right with himself only by faith!"

- o 2^{nd} Boaz went to sleep in the field... vs. 7-9
 - Ruth quietly went up to him and lay down at his feet...
 - Around midnight Boaz woke up and was surprised to see someone there...
 - Likely as not Boaz was staying there to guard the harvest sleeping in the open...
 - So he demanded to know who was there perhaps thinking a thief...
 - Ruth revealed herself 'Spread your 'wing' over me for you are my redeemer'...
 - The picture of a baby chicken which runs under the wing of their mothers...
 - Ruth was asking Boaz if he wanted to fulfill his duty and redeem her...
 - Take Ruth under his wing / under his protection make her his wife!
 - God wants to take us under His protection provide for all our needs...
 - **Psalm 91:4** "He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection."
 - The question is do we run to Him in our times of trouble / seek His help...
 - The one place where we can be safe from sin and the trials of this world is in Jesus!
- o 3rd The response of Boaz... vs. 10-11
 - The Lord bless you my daughter (*Boaz was older than Ruth*)!
 - Ruth was showing great loyalty to Naomi and her family by offering to marry Boaz...
 - She was apparently a VERY beautiful woman and had her choice of suitors...
 - She could have married a young man whether rich or poor...
 - I am sure the thought had crossed Ruth's mind she had options...
 - But instead choose to honor Naomi her family by marrying within the family!
 - We all must choose who/what we chase after in this life what we live for...
 - And the things of this world can seem very tempting to us...
 - But there is a hole in every man's heart left there by God which only He can fill...
 - We would spend our whole lives in vain trying to fill that hole with worldly things...
 - Money relationships family alcohol drugs only to be satisfied for a moment...
 - Only Jesus satisfies the desire of our heart we will only be content in Him!
 - Boaz was more than willing to take Ruth as his wife...
 - Everyone knew the whole town that Ruth was a virtuous woman...
 - What kind of reputation do we have around town what are we know for...
 - Are we famous around town for gambling /drinking /gossiping...
 - Or are we known for those who follow Jesus those who serve the Lord!
 - **Proverbs 22:1** "Choose a good reputation over great riches..."
- o 4^{th} There was one problem... vs. 12-13
 - Boaz was not the closest relative to Ruth there was one man who was closer...
 - **Deuteronomy 25:7-10** the brother or the closest relative is to marry the widow...
 - It is obvious Boaz had done his homework he also wanted to marry Ruth...
 - Jesus did His research He knew the cost of redemption Revelation 13:8...
 - He knew the only way to save us from Hell was for Him to die on the cross...
 - But Boaz assured Ruth he would take care of it he would talk to the man...
 - If he was willing to redeem/marry Ruth then so be it...
 - If not then 'as the Lord lives' I will marry you!

- Jesus did it all He was even willing to lay down His life to redeem us...
- **Philippians 2:7-8** "He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross."
- I find this staggering to consider how much God love you and I...
- Think of how much we are worth we were purchased by the life of Jesus!
- 3^{RD} Waiting on the Lord...vs. 14-18 (3 things) Read: Ruth 3:14-18
 - o 1st Ruth waited till morning then slipped away before dawn... vs. 14
 - Neither of them wanted to start a scandal if she was seen with Boaz...
 - Even though what they did was completely innocent people make assumptions...
 - I often see young men and women alone together and it is not wise...
 - Even if they were just 'talking' other people do not know that...
 - If you saw a boy and a girl waling out of any empty house together innocent...
 - Do not be alone with a boy/girl do not go into a room by yourself stay in public...
 - II Thessalonians 5:22 "Stay away from all appearance of evil."
 - o 2nd Boaz gave a gift to Ruth before she left... vs. 15-16
 - He poured 18 liters of corn into her shawl and sent her on her way...
 - It was his guarantee to Ruth that he would finish the work of redeeming her...
 - If you want to get married you give for future wife an engagement ring...
 - It is the guarantee the promise to her that you will for sure marry her...
 - Jesus bought and paid for us with the cross I Corinthians 6:20
 - And He has gave us His Holy Spirit as a 'down payment'...
 - It's His guarantee He will be back for us to finish the work of us as His church!
 - Until that time until we are in heaven He 'seals' us with His Spirit...
 - It is the same 'seal' God uses to bind satan for 1000 years Revelation 20:3
 - We are sealed safe & sound till the day we arrive in heaven as God's people!
 - o 3rd When Ruth arrived home Naomi asked 'Is that you my daughter?'
 - Naomi knew it was Ruth what she wanted to know is if she was Boaz wife...
 - When Naomi heard what Boaz had said she told Ruth to be patient...
 - Boaz would not rest until he had followed through he would settle it today!
 - Jesus told us He is going to take care of everything then come back for us...
 - But its easy for us to forget this is no longer our home we are waiting to go home...
 - Do not settle in do not get comfortable we are no going to be here for very long!
 - **Hebrews 11:16** "Looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God... has prepared a heavenly city for them."
 - We have a 'long distance engagement' it is easy for us to get distracted...
 - It is important we take the time to kindle our love for God...
 - Spending time with Jesus through His Word and through prayer...
 - Preparing ourselves for the day when we will see Him face to face!