

RUTH 3

REVIEW...

- **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!
- **RUTH 2 - BOAZ AND RUTH...**
 - 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!
 - 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 ARRANGED MARRIAGE...VS. 1-4 (3 THINGS) READ: RUTH 3:1-4**
 - 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."
 - 2nd - Naomi gave Ruth some practical advice to help her prepare...
 - Take a 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!
- 2ND - THE ENGAGEMENT...VS. 5-13 (4 THINGS) READ: RUTH 3:5-13
 - o 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 2nd - 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 known 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 4th - 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!

- **3RD - WAITING ON THE LORD...VS. 14-18 (3 THINGS) READ: RUTH 3:14-18**
 - 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.”
 - 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!
 - 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!