

14 February

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Book of Ruth – week 5

 Let's hear your story

1. Looking back at your life, share a funny or odd story of a deal you made in business or relationships?
2. What can you learn from how Boaz negotiated the deal? (**He did it honourably, allowed God to open/close the door, clear expectations**).
3. What did Ruth and Naomi gain from Boaz who redeemed them? (**Compare their situation in Moab to their new situation with Boaz**).
4. Who did all the work in redeeming Ruth and Naomi? (**Boaz**).

 Let's go deeper

5. How have you seen God's providence at work in your personal life?
6. Is it easy or difficult for you to trust in God's providence; and why?
7. How is your prayer life? Do you keep record of your answered prayers, because our trust in God is often connected to our relationship with Him.
8. Why was the prayer to Ruth in verse 12, a prayer of faith? (**It was a prayer that God would open up her womb, and enable her to be a mother**).

 Let's apply this

9. What are you trusting God for?

Both Ruth and Boaz trusted God for a child, it was in their hearts.

Take courage from Boaz and Ruth as God answered their prayer.

- What are you trusting God for?

SUMMARY:

- The story of Ruth – Faith; Hope and Love

Read: Ruth 4:1 – 12

v.1 – 4; Now, Boaz had gone to the gate. The gate is sort of the centre of town where business is transacted and social relationships are made, and he sat down. And it just so happens, that God blessed his pursuit by bringing along the legal redeemer.

There are three kinds of men when it comes to business in the Book of Ruth. There is Elimelech, who is a bold, courageous, confident man with a plan, who took risks, but he was foolish. And it destroyed his family and it led to death. This other man, unnamed, is a man who doesn't do anything wrong, he just doesn't do anything. He's a guy who doesn't follow through on his responsibilities. He doesn't take care of that which is his to look after, and then there's Boaz. The guy who is trying to help these women who are in great need.

V.5 – 6; Boaz is at a stage in life where he can afford to financially and practically provide and care for both Ruth and Naomi. To get to this point where he is able to redeem Ruth, what has Boaz been doing in the prior years? He's been building his business. He's been making a living. He's been investing wisely and generously. And he has been conducting himself in a very responsible way, financially.

V.7 – 11; To confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. So, when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal." Again, there's witnesses, courts in session, legally binding contractual agreement. The way they would seal a deal, the equivalent of signing a contract and having it stamped is, they would take off their sandal and this would be the public declaration that they had agreed to the deal. Boaz makes it legally contractually, a binding agreement in the sight of the law

So then, Boaz stands up and he's going to speak. He's publicly declaring what he intends to do. Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnessing this day." He's saying, "I will buy the land. I will take care of Naomi. I will marry Ruth. I will honour her deceased husband. We will have a child. The family line will not die. Boaz is an amazing man, who has no legal obligation to do this.

v.12; They pray for Ruth and trust that God would open up her womb and enable her to become a mother. This is great faith. Jesus is coming through this family. If it wasn't for Boaz, we wouldn't get Jesus, that's how important it is that there's a good dad somewhere that makes a difference and a new family line. Boaz is a redeemer and Jesus is the Redeemer. And Boaz is the foreshadowing of the ultimate redemption of Jesus and Ruth.