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# *Ruth*

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## **I. Ruth's Faith (1:1-22)**

A. Faith is often forged in the context of personal adversity (1:1-5).

1. Famine forced Elimelech and his family to leave Judah and sojourn in Moab (1:1-2).
2. Elimelech died, leaving his wife Naomi a widow (1:3).
3. Naomi's two sons married Moabite women and then died, leaving all three women without sons or husbands (1:4-5).

B. Faith is often forged in the context of personal relationships (1:6-14).

1. Naomi heard that God had again blessed His people, and so decided to return to Judah (1:6-7).
2. Naomi released her two daughters-in-law from any family obligations, telling them to return to their families (1:8-13).
3. Through many tears, Orpah left Naomi but Ruth chose to stay with her (1:14).

C. Faith is often forged in the context of personal crises (1:15-18).

1. Naomi again encouraged Ruth to return to her family (1:15).
2. Ruth declared her commitment to Naomi, to Naomi's people, and to Naomi's God (1:16-18).

D. Faith is often forged in the context of personal reflection (1:19-22).

1. Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem to the surprise of those who still lived there (1:19).

2. Naomi declared her perspective that the Lord Almighty had brought misfortune on her over the years (1:20-21).
3. By God's providential care, Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem during the time of the barley harvest (1:22).

## **II. Ruth's Redeemer (2:1-23)**

A. We need a redeemer who has been appointed by God's providential plan (2:1-3).

1. Naomi's relative, Boaz, was an influential man in Bethlehem (2:1).
2. Ruth set out to provide for her and Naomi's needs by gleaning in the harvest fields (2:2).
3. By human chance and divine providence, Ruth ended up gleaning in the fields of Boaz (2:3).

B. We need a redeemer who demonstrates impeccable moral character (2:4-18).

1. Boaz, like Jesus Christ, was a humble man (2:4).
2. Boaz, like Jesus Christ, was a compassionate man (2:5-9).
3. Boaz, like Jesus Christ, was a gracious man (2:10-13).
4. Boaz, like Jesus Christ, was a generous man (2:14-18).

C. We need a redeemer who is a close blood relative (2:19-23).

1. Naomi informed Ruth that Boaz was their kinsman redeemer (2:19-21).
2. Naomi encouraged Ruth to continue to glean in the fields of Boaz (2:22-23).

### **III. Ruth's Romance (3:1-18)**

A. Meaningful relationships are built on interpersonal skills developed in the home (3:1-6).

1. Naomi offered Ruth loving, selfless advice (3:1-4).
2. Ruth responded to Naomi with respect and obedience (3:5-6).

B. Meaningful relationships value personal character and mutual respect (3:7-11).

1. Ruth humbly put herself at the feet of Boaz (3:7).
2. Ruth discretely invited Boaz to propose marriage to her (3:8-9).
3. Boaz lovingly expressed his admiration for Ruth's noble character (3:10-11).

C. Meaningful relationships honor God's plan above personal desires (3:12-15).

1. Boaz informed Ruth that she had a nearer relative who should first be consulted (3:12-13).
2. Boaz guarded Ruth's reputation by sending her home before daylight (3:14).
3. Boaz gave Ruth six measures of barley, expressing his intention to provide for Ruth and Naomi's needs (3:15).

D. Meaningful relationships wait patiently for God's will to unfold (3:16-18).

1. Ruth described to Naomi what Boaz had said and done (3:16-17).
2. Naomi urged Ruth to wait for Boaz to fulfill his promise (3:18).

### **IV. Ruth's Reward (4:1-22)**

A. Sometimes God rewards us with abundant resources (4:1-8).

1. Boaz offered his fellow kinsman the first right to purchase Naomi's property (4:1-4).

2. Boaz reminded his fellow kinsman that the owner of Naomi's property would acquire broader family responsibilities (4:5).

3. Boaz's fellow kinsman passed the offer of Naomi's property on to Boaz (4:6-8).

B. Sometimes God rewards us with outstanding opportunities (4:9-12).

1. Boaz announced his purchase of Naomi's property (4:9).

2. Boaz announced his intention to marry Ruth (4:10).

3. The elders pronounced their blessings on Boaz and his marriage to Ruth (4:11-12).

C. Sometimes God rewards us with rich relationships (4:13-17).

1. Boaz married Ruth and together they had a son (4:13).

2. Naomi's friends celebrated the birth of Naomi's new kinsman-redeemer (4:14-15).

3. Naomi cared for Ruth's son, who would eventually become the grandfather of King David (4:16-17).

D. Sometimes God rewards us with a lasting legacy (4:18-22).

1. Boaz's ancestors passed along a godly heritage (4:18-21a).

2. Boaz's descendants established a godly legacy (4:21b-22).