

Today's Topic: An Extended Family

Ruth 3:1-4

Sunday, August 28, 2022

1. An Extraordinary Proposal

"When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet! 'Who are you?' he asked. 'I am your servant Ruth,' she said. 'Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family.'" Ruth 3:7-9 (NIV, 2011)

2. Extraordinary Laws

"The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers. Throughout the land that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land. If one of your fellow Israelites becomes poor and sells some of their property, their nearest relative is to come and redeem what they have sold." Leviticus 25:23-25 (NIV, 2011)

"If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel."

Deuteronomy 25:5-6 (NIV, 2011)

Both laws capture God's plan from the beginning, to have His family on His land, experiencing His love together.

3. An Extraordinary Redeemer

"Then Naomi said, 'Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today." Ruth 3:18 (NIV, 2011)

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21 (NIV, 2011)

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Next Steps:
Are we treating others like future members of our family?

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Why is it so hard sometimes to keep families together?
- 2. Read Ruth 3:1-3. What is so extraordinary about this proposal?
- 3. Read Leviticus 25:23-25 and Deuteronomy 25:5-6. What do these extraordinary laws tell us about God's plan for His entire family?
- 4. As a "guardian redeemer," how will Boaz fulfil the requirements contained in each of these laws?
- 5. Read Matthew 1:20-21. In what sense does Jesus fulfil this same role for us?
- 6. What truth from this study will you think about and try to apply throughout the coming week?