
QT Questions—for Ruth

(Here's a short introduction to the book of Ruth from one of my study Bible.)

- The story of Ruth occurs during the time of judges, which began with Joshua's death and ended with Saul's coronation as king. Ruth is a story about self-sacrificial love against all odds. Ruth is a Moabite woman who marries into an Israelite family but becomes an impoverished widow. Ruth refuses to abandon her mother-in-law Naomi, also a widow. Together, they travel from Moab to Bethlehem, where Ruth works to provide for them both. Ruth then marries Boaz, a relative of Naomi's husband, and gives Naomi a grandchild, redeeming them from poverty and restoring Naomi's joy.

Ruth 1 (2/3/23)

1. In 1:1-5, what are the meanings of the names of this family; why does Elimelek's family leave the promise land; in about ten years, what was the situation of this family; what do you learn from this passage?
2. In 1:6-22, why is Naomi wanting to return to the promise land; why is Ruth wanting to return with her mother-in-law; why is Naomi wanting to change her name; how is this applicable to you?

* A famine is a serious, dangerous, immediate and visible trouble. There's nothing to live on. What's lacking is very visible. The hunger, the need, the struggle, the trouble is impossible to ignore. We are told to live by faith and not by sight. But, sight seem to say it all, because there's nothing to hold on. When what you see is clearly visible, will your sight rule or can faith still surface and lead? The problem of our lives is not the presence of trouble, but the absence of Christ in the midst of our troubles—Is this just a good sentence to memorize, or is it true and how true is it in your life?

Ruth 2 (2/4/23)

1. In 2:1-16, though unaware where to go, where does Ruth end up working and how do you think she ended up there; why was Boaz so kind to a foreigner whom he has just met; whose land does Boaz believe his field belonged to; how is this applicable to you?
2. In 2:17-23, how much barley did Ruth carry back home and why did that surprise Naomi; who does Naomi say Boaz is and why was that significant; why did Naomi want Ruth to work in his field; how was 1:6 true in Naomi's and Ruth's lives; how is 1:6 true in your life?

* This chapter has a lot of events falling just in the right places and just in the right time. The world might call them happy coincidences or good luck. But, we call them God's sovereignty. It is our God who was there aiding, guiding, and blessing His people, including a person who was just adopted, though she should not have been able to enter into the assembly of the Lord, not even in the tenth generation (Deut 23:3). Yet, she has entered under the wings of the God of Israel, receiving His guidance and kindness. Adoption into His family is real, powerful, and a life transforming blessing. Like Ruth, we are also adopted into His family; the heavenly Father has adopted us.

Ruth 3 (2/6/23)

1. In 3:1-13, what did Naomi want Ruth to do and why; how did Boaz react to Ruth's behavior and why; what do you learn here?
2. In 3:14-18, why did Boaz not want anyone to know Ruth was at the threshing floor; why did Boaz not want Ruth to return empty handed; how is this applicable to you?

* Boaz was startled in the middle of the night, probably because Ruth uncovered his feet. And under the cover of the darkness, many things could have gone wrong for both of them. He, because he did not know how to control and overcome the temptation that lied in front of him, and she, because she would not been able to fend him off, if he chose to overpower her. Sin was knocking at their door, and to fall into it, would have probably been easier than to fight it off. But, just because an opportunity was presented, did not mean, they had to fall into it. Let's understand, opportunity is not permission. For many of us, an opportunity becomes an invitation to sin, to fall. We are so ready to fall often, aren't we? So, we look again and again to our Redeemer, for He knew the temptation that came, was not for Him to fall into. Will you look up Hebrews 4:15 and write and memorize it today for your soul?

Ruth 4 (2/7/23)

1. In 4:1-8, why was the guardian-redeemer (or kinsman-redeemer) role essential here; why didn't the nearest guardian-redeemer want to redeem the land; how did they legalize transactions in Israel and do you know other ways other cultures do, besides ours; what do you learn here?
2. In 4:9-22, by buying the land, whose name was Boaz willing to keep alive and why; who did God gift to these newly wed couple; who else was pleasantly happy with the birth of this baby and why; how is this applicable to you?

* This small book has many bumps and turns. A very pleasant woman named Naomi, with her full family try to escape a very meager situation, a famine, and yet, instead of escaping they lose more than those who lived through the famine. Desperate and deprived, she returned home with a Gentile, that was not welcomed into the assembly of the Lord to the tenth generation. And yet, what was surely a hopeless situation, somehow, someway, the right people, the right field, the right situation finds them, as if an invisible hand was orchestrating everything. What's incredible through it all is, this is during the days of Judges, and having read the book of Judges, we know, everyone did whatever they wanted for themselves, absolutely oblivious to God's ways. And yet, here we have, tucked somewhere during the days of Judges, two widows and an older unmarried man, doing their best to follow, not their agenda but the Lord's. And what makes this book of Ruth so hope-filled is, though it began far from God's ways, it concludes with a clear sign, pointing to His ways, a genealogy that proclaims of God's continuing work of truth and grace. The baby that seems to be just another baby from just another couple, the genealogy opens our eyes to help us see, what a grandfather he will be. What an amazing ending this book is to the period of Judges. We thought, the time of Judges ended with people doing whatever they wanted, but it actually ends, with a genealogy that clearly points to the coming King of Judah.