

# Ruth and Boaz: A Love Story

Book of Ruth

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- I. Three Funerals and a Wedding
  - A. A story of tragedy and loss, of faithfulness and redemption, of love and glimpses of God's providence as he works out his eternal purposes in history.
  - B. We all suffer losses in life and God desires us to learn how to trust in his care for us in spite of our circumstances.
- II. From Bethlehem to Moab and Back (Ruth 1:1-5)
  - A. The name Bethlehem meant "the house of bread"
  - B. Naomi's survival was in jeopardy
- III. The Return to Bethlehem (Ruth 1:6-14)
  - A. Naomi determines to return but wants Ruth and Orpah to stay
  - B. Naomi's bitterness toward God.

"It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has gone out against me!" (Ruth 1:13 NIV)
  - C. Losses as a part of life

"Losses, crises and traumas are part of life. They should be anticipated and expected to occur. They are inevitable." Dr. H. Norman Wright, Crisis and Trauma Counseling
- IV. Ruth's Confession of Faithfulness and Devotion (Ruth 1:15-18)
  - A. Ruth's bold statement of love for Naomi and faith in God

"Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." (Ruth 1:16-17)
  - B. Ruth left everything out of devotion for Naomi and her God
- V. Naomi Continues to Bitterly Blame God (Ruth 1:19-22)
  - A. Naomi responds with bitterness—"Call me Mara"
  - B. Instead of trusting in God's goodness and faithfulness, she focused on her circumstances.

"We can't control the circumstances of life, but we can control how we respond to them. That's what faith is all about, daring to believe that God is working everything for our good even when we don't feel like it or see it happening. "In everything give thanks" (1 Thess. 5:18) isn't always easy to obey, but obeying this command is the best antidote against a bitter and critical spirit." Warren Wiersbe, Be Committed
  - C. Bethlehem at barley harvest
- VI. Ruth, Meet Boaz (Ruth 2:1-6)
  - A. Ruth trusted God and then took action
  - B. God guides Ruth to Boaz and arranges the introduction
  - C. There are no coincidences in the life of a child of God

"Again, we marvel at the overruling providence of God. The Lord led Ruth to the field of Boaz and then led Boaz to visit his field while Ruth was there. When we commit our lives to the Lord, what happens to us happens by way of appointment and not by accident. Ruth was still a poor widow and an alien, but God was about to create a new relationship that would completely alter her circumstances." Warren Wiersbe, Be Committed

- D. Boaz: a “worthy man”
  - E. Kindness attracts kindness
- VII. Naomi’s Heart Changes from Bitter to Blessed (Ruth 2:17-23)
- A. Naomi recognizes God’s intervention and praises him
    - “Before God changes our circumstances, he wants to change our hearts.”  
Warren Wiersbe
  - B. Not abandoned but blessed
    - “And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, ‘May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!’ ((Ruth 2:20)
  - C. Boaz the Redeemer
- VIII. Naomi Hatches a Plan (Ruth 3:1-5)
- A. Naomi prepares Ruth for the proposal of a lifetime
    - “My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for.” (Ruth 3:1 NIV)
  - B. Her best dress and a cloak for disguise
  - C. Redemption not automatic—it must always be requested
    - “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12
    - “For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”  
I Corinthians 6:20
- IX. A Marriage Proposal on the Threshing Floor (Ruth 3:6-18)
- A. You are my redeemer—spread your “wings” over me
  - B. Boaz’ blessing on Ruth comes back to him
    - “The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.” (Ruth 2:12)
  - C. Boaz’ concern for the honor of Ruth and the welfare of Naomi
- X. The Redeemer at the Gate (Ruth 4:1-17)
- A. Boaz calls a meeting and God provides the attendees
  - B. Boaz makes his casual pitch
    - “Naomi is selling the land ...and I thought that I would tell you of it.”
  - C. Boaz plays his Ace
  - D. Somebody loses a sandal
- XI. Boaz Marries Ruth (Ruth 4:13-17)
- A. Bethlehem celebrates a wedding
  - B. God gives an older groom and a barren bride a son
    - “Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” (Ruth 4:14-15)
- XII. What Can We Learn from the Life of Ruth?
- A. God is always at work orchestrating the events of history and of our individual lives to accomplish his eternal purposes
    - “God’s providential working in our lives is both a delight and a mystery. God is constantly working with us (Mark 16:20), in us (Phil. 2:12–13), and for us (Rom. 8:28) and accomplishing His gracious purposes. We pray, we seek His will, and we make decisions (and sometimes make mistakes); but it is God who orders events and guides His willing children.” Warren Wiersbe, Be Committed

- B. God can use anyone to accomplish his eternal purposes and he has plans and purposes for each of us.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.  
(Proverbs 19:21)

- C. Like Ruth, we have to trust God's promises as our reality, in spite of our circumstances at the moment.

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."  
(Psalm 34:18)

Do not fear, for I am with you;  
Do not be afraid, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you, I will also help you,  
I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand.'  
(Isaiah 41:10 NASB)

**Additional Books and Resources:**

Be Committed: Doing God's Will Whatever the Cost,  
Warren Wiersbe

Unshaken: One of Five Unlikely Women Who Changed Eternity  
Francine Rivers

Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy,  
Mark Vroegop

No More Faking Fine,  
Esther Fleece

For more on grieving our losses in a healthy way, while we trust God to comfort and heal us, check out Pastor Gary's "Learning to Lament" sermon from 10/25/20—along with the study guide.

## SONG TITLES

Here For You - **Passion Music**  
O Come To The Altar - **Elevation Worship**  
Canvas and Clay - **Pat Barrett**  
Yes I Will - **Vertical Worship**