

Sticky Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, December 21, 2014

Ruth's Request

Ruth 3

We are reading Ruth this year as a "Christmas Love Story." The sermon series is divided into four parts :

- Ruth 1 -- Ruth's decision (key verse -- 1:16-17)
- Ruth 2 -- Ruth's redeemer (key verse -- 2:20)
- Ruth 3 -- Ruth's request (key verse -- 3:9)
- Ruth 4 -- Ruth's blessings (key verse -- 4:14)

1. Much in our world – and perhaps even in your own personal life – seems hopeless. How might Naomi and Ruth have felt a sense of hopelessness upon returning to Israel after their stay in Moab ?

2. In Ruth 3:1-5, a light bulb seems to go on in Naomi's mind, as she understands the possibility that Boaz could redeem the women out of their loss. She recognizes that their real need is for a redeemer.

- What do you think are people's real needs ?
- How does Psalm 23 address our real needs ?
- What other passages in the Bible can you think of that address our real needs ?
- How do Jesus' words in John 15:5 address this question of people's real needs ?
- What things in life satisfy for a while but in the long-run fail to satisfy our deepest needs ?

3. What are your thoughts, feelings, or questions concerning the events that took place at Boaz's threshing floor (Ruth 3:6-13) ?

- How are Boaz and Ruth portrayed throughout the book of Ruth as honorable people ?
- How was Ruth's request in 3:9 a request that was completely in accordance with Israelite law ?
- How had Boaz already intimated his willingness to be this kinsman-redeemer in 2:12 ?

(An interesting commentary on the threshing-floor story can be found at [https://understandingbooksbible.wordpress.com/2013/02/20/0220/.](https://understandingbooksbible.wordpress.com/2013/02/20/0220/))

4. When did you recognize your need for a Redeemer / Savior ? How is faith in Jesus Christ for redemption more than ...

- ... intellectual agreement with certain doctrinal or historical facts ?
- ... trusting Him only for temporal needs ?

5. In the last two chapters of Ruth we discover that there is a relative closer to Ruth than Boaz was. This man's ability and willingness to redeem Ruth and Naomi will need to be explored (chapter 4).

- Is there any way to salvation / redemption other than by faith in Jesus Christ ? What makes you feel this way ?
- On what basis would you say that (a) self-effort, or (b) other religions do not offer a true path to salvation ?
- How does Acts 4:12 speak to these questions ?

6. Who in your own circle of family, friends, and acquaintances needs to know God's love story of redemption ? How do you think God might want to use you in this person's life ?

7. In Ruth 3:3, Naomi essentially says to Ruth, "Clean yourself up, and put on your best clothes ! You're going to meet your bridegroom !"

- We're going to meet our Bridegroom soon ! What will you do in the coming week to get ready ?