

The Journey to Jesus is Worth It

Boaz Redeems Ruth

Ruth 4:1–12

I'm sure that you have traveled before and the directions that you have aren't nearly as accurate as you had hoped. There are always going to be unforeseen twist and turns in life's trip, aren't there? When I was a college minister, I took students skiing in Colorado. While passing through Kansas, there are no turns, just flat open land with miles of farm land, tumble weed blowing across the interstate, but when you get into the Rocky Mountains, inevitably there will be a rock slides, mud slides, or even an avalanche that will side track your journey.

A common theme throughout Ruth is that the godly will not have a straight line to glory, but Jesus is worth it! Ruth teaches us that God's purpose is bigger than life's struggles or setbacks. Even our setbacks can be used for the glory of God! Your Monday's are might to be majestic for Christ! The best is yet to come in Christ, Church! Life is full of setbacks and struggles, but we must rest in the rigged sovereignty of God!

There will be Obstacles in the Way (Ruth 4:1-5) We don't want the "other" redeemer to marry Ruth! Stop the story! This would be a sad ending! This is the obstacle that is currently in the way of Boaz and Ruth getting married! Ruth's life has been full of obstacles! Her husband dies, her father-in-law dies, they are in a famine, they move, it's the worst country song ever! In our journey to Christ and growing in Christ there will always be obstacles. John 16:33 ***"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."***, 2 Timothy 3:12 ***"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*** We will have obstacles, but Christ is worth it!

a. These obstacles shape us towards Christ (1 Peter 1:7) ***"so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."***

b. These obstacles even help us share Christ (2 Cor. 1:3-5, Romans 8:17) 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 ***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too."*** We suffer to minister to others who suffer! Romans 8:17 ***"and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."***

There will be an Opening for the Weary (Ruth 4:6-10) Yes! It's happening! The "other" redeemer is giving the right for the purchase of the land and to marry Ruth to Boaz! I don't know about you, but I can't get over the fact that Jesus Christ died for me! I love Him! He ripped me away from God's wrath! I so much deserve Hell, and if we're honest we all do, but

praise God that He provided the only opening for the weary through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ!

The Outcome will be Worth it (Ruth 4:11-12) But there is a cloud overhead. We must continually pray! Ruth is barren. Or at least she seems to be. In 1:4 we were told that she had been married ten years to Mahlon and there were no children. So even now the suspense is not over. Can you see why I said that the lesson of the book of Ruth is that the life of the godly is not a straight line to glory? Life is one curve after another. And we never know what's coming. But the point of the story is that the best is yet to come, the journey to Jesus is worth it. No matter where you are, if you love God, the best is yet to come. Look with me at 4:11. The townspeople pray for Boaz and Ruth. They know that Ruth was married for ten years without a child. So they remember Rachel whose womb the Lord had opened long before. And they pray that God will make Ruth like Rachel and Leah.

We will see the rest of the journey next week, but today I want you to see that the Journey to Jesus is Worth it! Every time the Word of God is preached, it demands a response, how will you respond?