

## Ruth – A Stranger Finds a Home

### I. Ruth's commitment (chapter 1).

- A. A move (1-2).
- B. Death (3-4).
- C. The return (5-22).
  - 1. The famine was over.
  - 2. Naomi desired to return to Bethlehem.
  - 3. Ruth and Orpah loved Naomi.
  - 4. Naomi urged them to stay.
  - 5. Ruth's commitment (16-18; cf. 2 Sam. 15:21).

### II. Love blooms (chapters 2-3).

- A. Ruth gleans grain in the fields of Boaz (Lev. 19:9-10).
  - 1. Boaz was a *goel*.
    - a. A close relative.
    - b. A leader of the family.
  - 2. He is the kinsman-redeemer.
- B. Ruth finds favor in the eyes of Boaz.
  - 1. He encourages her to glean only in his fields.
  - 2. He recognizes she has taken refuge under the wings of the LORD.
  - 3. He instructs the harvesters to leave plenty for her.
  - 4. She stayed with him through the wheat harvest.
    - a. She thanked him for his goodness to her.
    - b. She recognized her status as a foreigner.
- C. Naomi the matchmaker.
  - 1. Instructs Ruth to lie at Boaz's feet.
    - a. At the harvest, the men slept in the field to protect the grain.
    - b. Boaz awoke to discover Ruth lying at his feet.
  - 2. "Spread your wings over me." (3:9).
    - a. Could mean protection, as in 2:12.
    - b. Could mean spread your garment which means "marry me."
- D. Boaz's response.
  - 1. An evaluation of Ruth's character (3:11; cf. Prov. 31).
  - 2. Accepts the proposal.
  - 3. But there is a fly in the ointment, a closer relative.

III. The kinsman-redeemer (chapter 4).

- A. Naomi had renounced her right to the land in favor of Ruth (vs. 5).
- B. The nearer relative renounced his right to the land in favor of Boaz.
  - 1. Would have to take Ruth as his wife because she owned the land.
  - 2. Was probably already married.
    - a. Ruth's son would inherit the land.
    - b. Could complicate his own estate.
  - 3. The sandal an ancient custom of handing over legal rights.
- C. Marriage, resulting in a son, an ancestor of David.

IV. A picture of salvation.

- A. The problem.
  - 1. Ruth was destitute and hopeless: an outsider, a foreigner with no rights in the family of God.
  - 2. No matter how diligently she worked, she remained an outsider.
- B. The solution.
  - 1. The kinsman-redeemer.
  - 2. He loved her and did what was necessary to bring her in (3:18).
- C. Her responsibility: to say, "I do."

V. A picture of restoration.

- A. Naomi was in the family of God.
  - 1. She wandered away.
  - 2. She became destitute and bitter.
- B. She returned and received new blessing.