



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Scripture: Ruth

TITLE: Ruth - The Redemption of Ruth

It's easy to do the right thing when you know you will get what you want. It's hard to do the right thing when times are hard, and you don't know what will happen. Like if a student had the option to copy the answer key to a test. They would be guaranteed an A, as opposed to choosing to answer the questions themselves and not being sure of the grade they might receive.

Choosing to do the right thing when no one's watching, and you're not guaranteed the results is what I would call integrity. And integrity is what the Book of Ruth is all about. The Book of Ruth is found in the Old Testament following the Book of Judges. It takes place between 1011 and 970 B.C. It's a short 4-chapter book, but don't miss this treasure.

It's one of two books in the Bible named after women, and it is the only book entirely dedicated to a woman. Ruth is also one of the only books in the Old Testament where we do not see God speak or act directly. In this book, you'll find people who display incredible faith like Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi.

Ruth teaches us about integrity and redemption. Ruth is a Moabite woman, so she's not one of God's chosen people by birth. She is also a widow and the daughter-in-law of Naomi. In this culture, unmarried women could not provide for themselves and had no security. A widow's only hope is that they might find a kinsman-redeemer. The kinsman-redeemer is a relative who could step in and marry the widow and provide for them.

To make a long story short, Naomi gives Ruth the option to leave her and find another husband. But we see Ruth's incredible loyalty and integrity displayed in chapter one in this response,

“But Ruth said, ‘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’” (Ruth 1:16, ESV).

God honors this integrity of Ruth by providing for her. In a series of circumstances too incredible to be circumstantial, Ruth finds herself searching for food in the field of Boaz. Boaz just happens to be a distant relative of Naomi and therefore can be their kinsman-redeemer. Ruth boldly asks Boaz to marry her. Eventually, he does which redeems her and Naomi, buying them back, restoring them, then turning their tragedy to joy.

We can see Jesus so clearly in this story of redemption. Jesus entered into our story, became our relative by taking on human flesh, and lived a perfect life allowing Him to take our sin and buy us back to God through His death and resurrection.

Jesus' story of redemption doesn't happen without Ruth's story of integrity and redemption. We can see God's plan for salvation for all nations in the fact that he chooses Ruth, a non-Jew to be a distant ancestor of King David, and ultimately Jesus himself!

So what can we learn from Ruth? Doing the right thing sometimes seems like the hardest thing. It is difficult to step out in faith and honor God especially when we don't know what the results will be. But we know he sees us, we know he cares for us, and we know he will provide for us as he is already providing everything we need through Jesus. May we follow Ruth's example and live a life that would reflect the loyalty and honor the redemption of Jesus.