

Text: Ruth 1:1-7, 15-18

Meaning: Ruth left everything for love

Big Idea: Man was made for love and to love

Objective: I want the hearers to rest in the love of God

Theme: A Love Story

FAMOUS LOVE STORIES

Antiquity Romeo and Juliet, Cleopatra and Mark Antony
Sir Lancelot and Lady Guinevere

Disney

Lady and the Tramp, Beauty and the Beast
Little Mermaid, Cinderella

Recent royal weddings

Prince William and Kate Middleton
Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

Novels

Jane Eyre, Casablanca, Wuthering Heights
Pride and Prejudice

STORY OF RUTH – LOVE STORY

READ RUTH 1:1-7, 15-18

The story of Ruth begins with bitterness, brokenness, darkness, and despair. This is during the time of the Judges, a time when the Bible says every man did what was right in his own eyes. There was a great famine in Israel so a Hebrew man named Elimelech decides to move his family to Moab for provision. Big mistake. The Moabites were descendants of Lot from his incestuous union with his firstborn

daughter (Gen. 19:30–38), and they were the Jews’ enemies because of the way they had treated Israel during their pilgrim journey from Egypt to Canaan (Deut. 23:3–6; Num. 22–25). During the time of the Judges, Moab had invaded Israel and ruled over the people for eighteen years¹. Elimelech sinned against God by moving his family to Moab, then his sons perpetuated that sin by marrying Moabite women. Jews were forbidden to marry Gentile women, especially those from Ammon and Moab (Deut. 7:1–11; 23:3–6; Neh. 13:1–3; Ezra 9:1–4). It was the Moabite women in Moses’ day who seduced the Jewish men into immorality and idolatry; and as a result, 24,000 people died²

So, Elimelech went to Moab to keep his family from death, yet it was in Moab that he and his 2 sons all died.

As a result of Elimelech’s disobedience now you have Naomi and her 2 daughters-in-law all alone in a pagan land.

But in this moment Naomi remembers her Hebrew upbringing, and she hears that there is food in the land of Judah, so Naomi declares she is going back to the land of Judah. In her time of despair Ruth has a moment of great clarity. The gods of her family had nothing for her. They were false gods from a false religion that promoted violence and immorality. The lives of her family and countrymen in Moab were empty and self-centered. She wanted more, she knew there had to be more to life than this, and she found it in the God of the Hebrews and in the love of her new family. She found love, joy, peace, and purpose in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. So, Ruth leaves the only glimmer of hope she had left for an inheritance and a family and walks away from Moab forever, fully trusting that

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [Be Committed](#), “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), 16–17.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, [Be Committed](#), “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), 17.

the God of the Hebrews was better than anything her pagan upbringing had to offer.

But when she gets to the land of Judah, she finds a man of God named Boaz to rescue the women from their trouble. In Hebrew culture it was understood that if a man died leaving a widow without a son (to be his heir and provide for his mother) the man's nearest male relative (usually a brother) would marry the widow to provide for her and produce an heir for his deceased relative. They referred to this as a kinsman redeemer. When offered the opportunity to do so Boaz did not hesitate. He would become perhaps the best biblical example of a redeemer short of Jesus Christ himself, *the Redeemer*. He recognized his responsibility and did what he knew was right. After showing her great consideration as she gleaned from his field, he married Ruth, and in so doing provided for Naomi. Ruth and Boaz would have a son named Obed, who would be the grandfather of King David, the forefather of Jesus.

<https://groundworkonline.com/blog/boaz-a-story-of-gods-providence-and-redemption#:~:text=In%20Boaz%2C%20Naomi%20and%20her,kinsman%20redeemer%20to%20respond%20to>

The moral of this love story is not that every woman needs a man. The moral of the story is every person needs a Redeemer named JESUS!

WHAT A STORY OF GRACE! RUTH, A MOABITNESS, A HATED ENEMY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, CONFESSES HER SIN AND

TRUSTS IN THE LORD AND BECOMES AN ANCESTRESS TO THE MESSIAH!

The story of the gospel is a story of LOVE and GRACE – not a story of JUDGMENT and CONDEMNATION! Just like Ruth we are all foreigners to the Kingdom of God and have no inheritance in His land. WE have no right or place in the Kingdom of God – but JESUS STEPPED IN AS OUR KINSMEN REDEEMER – He shed His precious blood to pay the redemption price for us to have a relationship with Him.

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Prayer of Paul – Ephesians 3:17-19 – He prayed the people would be “rooted and grounded in the love of God” and that they would know that love intimately so they might be filled with the fullness of God.

In order for God to redeem your story and for you to be rooted and grounded in His love, you must:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR LOCATION

Elimelech:

RAN FROM HIS PROBLEMS

RELIED ON HIS OWN THINKING

REMAINED IN HIS SIN

Which MULTIPLIED HIS MISERY

Never leave serving God to try and find solace or provision in the world!

THE WORLD:

- Promises pleasure and delivers pain
- Promises prosperity but delivers poverty
- Promises joy but delivers despair

The Devil is a liar and the father of lies!

MEN OF VALOR ILLUSTRATION

We shook hands with convicted murderers, thieves, drug dealers, and gang bangers whose lives have been completely transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Why? BECAUSE THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR LOCATION AND TURNED TO JESUS!

2. AGREE TO NEVER TO GO BACK

Ruth says, "Where you go I'll go and where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. I want to be buried where you are buried."

SPANISH EXPLORER HERNANDO CORTEZ – 1519 – 600 men – Veracruz – acquire the treasure of Aztec Empire – Scuttle the ships

3. ACCEPT THE LOVE OF JESUS

Naomi's advice to Ruth when she found out Boaz could be her redeemer was to go and flat out ask for his love. That's exactly what Ruth did. Nothing immoral. Nothing forward or seductive. Just a request for grace and mercy and Boaz showed it to her.

**4 TYPES OF PEOPLE: (slides only, do not put in program)
(Put each adjoining verse in same slide with point)**

I DON'T NEED GOD'S LOVE

Not only do you need God's love – you were made for God's love

Acts 17:28

In him we live and move and have our being

THOMAS PAINE – Leading writer in American colonies who criticized organized religion and attacked the legitimacy of the Bible: "I would give worlds if I had them, that The Age of Reason had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! No, don't leave; stay with me! Send even a child to stay with me; for I am on the edge of hell here alone. If ever the Devil had an agent, I have been that one."

HOW COULD GOD LOVE ME AFTER ALL I'VE DONE

Abraham – liar, Moses – murderer, David – adulterer and murderer, Rahab – prostitute

Romans 7:24-25

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

I DIDN'T REALIZE GOD LOVED ME THIS MUCH

Exodus 34:6-7

"The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin

KNOW GOD'S LOVE INTIMATELY

Psalms 63:3-4

Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.