

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Ruth // Promise of Redemption

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite sport to cheer for?

Reading: Ruth 3:1-13

Outline:

- I. Self-Sacrificing Loyalty
 - A. In this passage, Naomi tells Ruth to present herself as a bride to Boaz in order for him to save them from poverty. Instead of hesitating at Naomi's weighty request, Ruth accepts.
 - B. Ruth's example of self-sacrificing loyalty calls us to do the same with our friends and family. Although none of us can ever be the "best" all the time, Jesus calls us to be a good friend.
Q: How do you/can you better practice self-sacrificing loyalty to those around you?
- II. Self-Sacrificing Kindness
 - A. Both Ruth and Boaz exhibit self-sacrificing kindness in this passage. Ruth's kindness is seen in her commitment to Naomi to marry Boaz, and Boaz's kindness is seen in his agreement to marry Ruth, if the circumstances allow.
 - B. The sort of Biblical kindness we are called to is difficult; it requires a lot of sacrifice. In order to practice this self-sacrificing kindness, we need the power of God.
Q: What makes normal kindness and self-sacrificing kindness so different?
- III. Self-Sacrificing Redemption
 - A. Boaz's promise to Ruth to marry her (if allowed) points us to the promise of redemption we have in Jesus. Just like the security Boaz gave to Ruth and Naomi, we find eternal security in Jesus
 - B. Only in the security we receive through Christ's redeeming work can we find the strength to extend self-sacrificing loyalty and kindness to those God places in your life.
Q: How can/does the story of Boaz pointing to Jesus change how you view the Bible?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we discern when *not* to practice self-sacrificing loyalty?
- 2) How can we remind ourselves of the work Christ has started in us through redemption?
- 3) How can we effectively practice self-sacrificing kindness?
- 4) What can we learn from the boldness of Ruth in this passage?

Suggestions for further study:

- 1 Peter 1:18-19 Q: How do these verses both contrast and relate to our passage in Ruth?
- Colossians 1:13-14 Q: How do these verses shed light on the stakes of Ruth's redemption in her story?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for your redeeming work in our lives. We thank you that you showed self-sacrificing loyalty and entered creation to become one of us, that you showed self-sacrificing kindness by giving yourself up to the cross for our redemption. Teach us to extend that loyalty and kindness to those you've placed before us. Amen.