

Remnant Life Church
July 21, 2013

Regardless of the Past
Ruth 2:1-12

- By what are you known?
 - Name; family; job; activities; personality; demeanor
- If you had control over what was written on your head stone –
 - What would you write? What would others write?

Background

- The book of Ruth is placed in the midst of military and political accounts – (Joshua, Judges, I-II Samuel, I-II Kings and I-II Chronicles)
 - Like getting together with all your buddies for a day of watching the Rambo series, the Jason Bourne movies, Black Hawk Down and John Wayne in the Green Berets when suddenly right in the middle someone puts in Steel Magnolias.
 - It is there to show God's sovereignty, His love and His mercy to those who follow Him
 - This story is an account of restoration
 - It is also the demonstration of a life lived honoring God in contrast to the moral decline that the nation was living in
- The time of Ruth was in the time of the judges
 - Joshua had died at the age of 110
 - The people had served God
 - Buried the bones of Joseph they had brought out of Egypt
 - The Israelites were living in the land promised them by God
 - Time period of the judges is approx. 1375-1050 BC – or about 325 yrs
 - The people are falling under the oppression of foreign nations due to their apostasy.
 - 13 judges are listed in that time period with Samuel as the last of the judges who was also a prophet
 - The book of Judges links the time of Joshua through the judges leading to the transitions of -
 - Priest Eli to Samuel the prophet
 - Samuel to Saul the first king

- Saul to David and his house
- The three central characters in this account are Naomi, Ruth and Boaz

Boaz was a man used of God to continue the line of David leading to Jesus

1. Boaz was a man of great character
2. He also carried a legal responsibility or opportunity to care for relatives in serious difficulties as the kinsman-redeemer (7 times only all in Ruth)
 - a. This applied primarily to a woman who was widowed but could be applied to anyone who had been severely wronged, been killed or lost everything making them destitute
 - b. Without the kinsman-redeemer a woman would have no rights or any way to live
 - c. God is the redeemer of Israel as The Father
 - d. Jesus is the redeemer for all man-kind
3. He had a Godly heritage
 - a. (8 greats)-grandson of Abraham
 - b. Great-grandfather of David
4. His past should have negated him from being in this position

We learn several things about him in a brief amount of time

1. A man of standing – v 1
 - a. Not only in material wealth
 - b. Valor, integrity, substance, might and power
2. He is a Godly man – v 4 and 9
 - a. In the times of Moses a law was put in place to help the widows and the poor survive while still requiring them to make an effort
 - b. Lev. 19:9; 23:22 and Duet. 24:19
 - c. The system of help within our culture today encourages laziness
3. He is respected by his workers – v 4
4. A man knowledgeable in the law – v 5
5. Filled with compassion – v 8
6. A man of principle – v 9
7. Man of generosity – v 9
 - a. After she had gleaned she had an ephah – (about ½ bushel or 30 lbs)
8. Having a gentle spirit – v 11

His past could have eliminated him from achieving anything

- We read the genealogy of Jesus in **Matthew 1** and **Luke 3**
 - Matthew, who is writing to the Jews, intended to show the legitimacy of Jesus' claim as Messiah through the kingly lineage of Joseph back to David
 - Luke is writing to the Gentiles and shows the line of Jesus all the way back to the first man – Jesus is Messiah over all mankind
- Boaz is seen in both genealogies and Matthew tells us his mother's name
- The mother of Boaz was a woman named Rahab
 - The account of Rahab is found in **Joshua 2:1**
 - She and her family were spared when Jericho was destroyed
 - WHY?
 - God was preserving the line of the Messiah
 - Jesus did not come for another 1300 years
 - God's will cannot be stopped
 - The relative of a prostitute in biblical times was a person of no standing and no future – especially a child
 - How did Boaz leave that destiny and become a man of standing?
 - Because God saved Rahab and brought her to live with the Israelites where she would meet a man from the tribe of Judah, from the line of Abraham, named Salmon.

- Would the account of Boaz's mother have had any influence on how he would treat a widow woman gleaning in his fields?
- Would he have had an extra measure of compassion for those looked down on in their society knowing where his mother came from?
- No matter the past – GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

- When we confess our past, our sins, the things that would bring us shame to Jesus and do it with a humble heart. WE ARE FORGIVEN

- Two others:
 - Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus – **Acts 9**
 - The criminal hanging on the cross next to Jesus – **Luke 23**

- **Psalm 103:12** - *as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

- **I John 1: 9** - *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*
 - If we do not accept this and instead hold to the things of our past then we are saying to God that His death and shed blood were not enough.
 - We are saying that His promises and assurances of forgiveness are not true
 - We are telling Him that He cannot use us