

Ruth 1:1-22

What are you like at do-it-yourself jobs? Share some success and disaster stories.

What alarm bells ring when you read vv 1-2? Read Deuteronomy 6:3 and 7:3 and see if these verses help.

Outline the do-it-yourself tasks Elimelech undertook and the results of this? (vv 2-5)

What was Elimelech looking for, for himself and his family? Is this a good or bad thing? What is the significance of him leaving to find it? Is this a good or a bad thing?

What drove Naomi and Ruth to make this decision to return home?

Why does Naomi feel bitter? V 20. Does she have a right to? Why or Why not?

How is this a good warning for us when we attempt to find happiness and contentment in a do-it-yourself style?

What are some of the do-it-yourself happiness and contentment searches we go on?

Read ahead a little and see what sort of reception the girls get on their return?

What sort of reception can we expect if we turn to “come home” after wandering away from God? How is this made possible?

Ruth 2:1-23

What do we know from the Bible in regard to the responsibility of relatives to a widow?

What is the picture we get of Naomi and Ruth's situation here? Vv1-3

What picture do we get of Boaz in v4?

In what way does Boaz show kindness that is not demanded of him through the law?

What do you think was the reasoning behind the law of gleaning?

How have Israel been shown this kindness?

As Christians, how have we experienced the:

- Love of God?
- Mercy of God?
- Kindness of God?

As Christians how have we/can we show the:

- Love of God?
- Mercy of God?
- Kindness of God?

Ruth 3:1-18

What is Naomi's plan in vv.1-4?

What is Boaz's response? (v.10-15) what does this response say about Boaz?

What does v17 tell us about Ruth's life now? How does it compare to what it was when she first arrived in Bethlehem in chapter 1?

Read Ezekiel 16:8

How does this relate to chapter 3 in Ruth? What are the common threads?

What are some of the differences? Think particularly about the appearance of Ruth and that of Israel.

To be good exegetes (interpreters; from the text) of the Old Testament we must read it all in light of the New Testament. Ephesians 5 shows that Jesus gave himself to redeem us as his "wife". What state were we in when we were redeemed by Christ?

What did we have or do to deserve it?

What are the parallels between the grace of Boaz and the grace of God in Christ?

What are the parallels between Ruth and us?

What should our response therefore be?

Ruth 4:1-22

What are some bad decisions that you have made in life? What about other bad decisions that you have heard of?

Recap the story of Ruth so far. List the ups and downs of their travels. What is the big downer we are faced with as we start chapter 4?

What did the relative find so attractive about the opportunity for redeeming? What was the stumbling block for him? (vv.1-5)

What was the cost to Boaz to redeem Ruth? Why did Boaz redeem?

What was the end result of Boaz redeeming Ruth? (vv13-22)

How did the Lord grant the wishes of the elders at the gate? (vv11-12)

Read Titus 2:11-14

What is the cost of redemption to God?

What have we been redeemed from? What have we been redeemed for?

Ruth seems to be a book of returning from the outside. It is a book that warms the heart and somehow touches the romantic side in each of us (if you have one). What does the book say to us about returning home or coming to Jesus?

What does Ruth say about being received, having a kinsman redeemer?

If as a people of God we are to love what God loves. What do we see of God loves in the book of Ruth? Think about the way Ruth and Naomi are treated throughout.

What do these things say to us about the way we are to act and live?