

Extraordinarily Normal 4 – Ruth

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Ruth's life is a story of REDEMPTION.

Ruth shows us what to do in life when the “wheels come off.”

All of us have had events in our lives that caused us to question if we were going to make it.

Ruth shows us how to live beyond the **moment** and trust God to redeem us.

Story of Ruth

- Due to a famine, Elimelech and his wife Naomi move to Moab with their sons Mahlon and Kilion.
- Mahlon marries Ruth, and Kilion marries Orpah (Moabite women).
- Elimelech dies, then both of his sons die.
- Naomi tells both daughters in law to go back to their families.

Ruth 1:15-18 – ¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Ruth shows that the seed of **loyalty** can grow into a forest of **favor**.

Loyalty is an unknown commodity until it is tested.

Naomi changes her name to Mara, or “Bitter.”

Ruth and Boaz:

- Ruth meets Boaz working in the fields.
- Ruth worked the edges of the field.
- Boaz notices her and is kind to her.

Ruth 2:19-20 – ¹⁹ Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. “The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” she said. ²⁰

“The LORD bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our **kinsman-redeemers**.”

Boaz tells the men to leave her alone.

Boaz redeems her land and marries her.

Ruth 4:13-17 – ¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! ¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is **better to you than seven sons**, has given him birth.” ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, “Naomi has a son.” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Ruth shows us the power of redemption.

Ever wonder why Boaz (Father – Salmon) was willing to marry Ruth?

I Peter 1:18-19 - For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

You don't redeem something that has no value.

You are valuable to God – EXPECT REDEMPTION.

Wrapped within Ruth's decision to “follow Naomi” was a total restoration of both of their lives.

Ruth shows us that the faithfulness of God lives beyond our lives, into the lives of our children.

Naomi becomes the great, great grandmother of David.

Ruth becomes the great grandmother of David.

Both become a part of the lineage of Jesus.

What is on the other side for you when you decide to follow Jesus?

How does a “redeemed” person act and live, and what do they expect?

- Are you living on the edges of the fields, gathering the leftovers of life?
- Are you content to live outside of your inheritance?

Matthew 13:45-46 – ⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

You are that pearl that Jesus gave His all for!