

“Seeing God at the Center of Your Circumstances...but Accurately”

Ruth 1:1-22 6/30/19

Sermon Series- God’s Providential Faithfulness and His Invitation to Us

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Romans 15:4 (see also 1 Cor 10:11)

Date and Author- Unknown, but possibly Samuel.

Background- Time of the Judges (Ruth 1:1). Moral confusion, spiritual bankruptcy, disobedience, scandalous actions... sound familiar?

“In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes” (Judges 21:25)

“The Israelites again did evil in the LORD's sight. They worshiped the Baals and the Ashtars, as well as the gods of Syria, Sidon, Moab, the Ammonites, and the Philistines. They abandoned the LORD and did not worship him. The LORD was furious with Israel and turned them over to the Philistines and Ammonites.” (Judges 10:6-7)

Background Texts- Lev 26:3-4; Deut 28:15-68 (famine/death); Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Lev 25; Num 35 (Levirate marriage/redemption of land/name)

Hesed- *“A Hebrew word that no one English word can begin to convey accurately. Being expressive of relationships, the term connotes altogether the notions of covenantal loyalty, faithfulness, kindness, goodness, mercy, love, and compassion.”* K. Lawson Younger, Jr.

Themes of the book of Ruth- God’s Sovereignty, Providence, Hesed. His invitation to act out our own Hesed and partake in His work in the world.

Lesson 1- In the midst of trials/difficulties we should remain HUMBLE
(Ruth 1:1-5; 1 Peter 5:6; Heb 6:12; Ps 146:7-9; 34:18-19)

“The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all” (Ps. 34:19)

Lesson 2- In the midst of trials and difficulties we trust God is WORKING
(Ruth 1:6-18; John 5:17; Rom 8:28; Job 13:15; Ps 18:25)

“You prove to be loyal to one who is faithful; you prove to be trustworthy to one who is innocent.” (Ps. 18:25)

Lesson 3- In the midst of trials and difficulties we walk by FAITH
(Ruth 1:19-22; 2 Cor 5:7; 1 Cor 10:13; Heb 11:1, 6)

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples