

“Be Bold! Be Courageous! Be Shrewd?”

Ruth 3:1-18 7/28/19

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)

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.

Background Texts- Hebrew word **GOEL**. A *goel* is usually translated as “kinsman-redeemer”. A *goel* had several responsibilities according to OT.

- 1) Buying back (redeeming) family property (Lev 25:25-30)
- 2) Buying back (redeeming) family members who became indentured servants (Lev 25:47-55).
- 3) Being the avenger of blood on murderers of family (Num 35:12, 19-27)
- 4) Receiving restitution on behalf of deceased family (Numbers 5:8)
- 5) Advocating for family in lawsuit (Job 19:25; Ps 119:154; Jer 50:34)

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- The author is inviting us to learn and imitate the *hesed* of NAOMI

- 1) Comes out of her slump; 2) Assertive; 3) Advocates for Ruth; 4) Shrewd and leaves NOTHING to chance.

Lesson 2- The author is inviting us to learn and imitate the *hesed* of RUTH

- 1) Risk taker; 2) Courageous; 3) Submissive; 4) Loyal/faithful; 5) Advocated for Naomi; 6) Overcame prejudices and gained credibility by her actions
 - 7) Woman of excellent/noble character (Proverbs 12:4; 31:10-31)
- Ruth and Proverbs 31- trustworthiness, v.11; industry, vv. 13-15, 27; shrewdness, vv. 16, 18; generosity toward the needy, v. 20; efficiency, v. 29.

Lesson 3- The author is inviting us to learn and imitate the *hesed* of BOAZ

- 1) Humble; 2) Gave glory and thanks to God; 3) Respects and protects Ruth’s character; 4) Respects clan customs (closer Goel than him); 5) God in speech

Lesson 4- The author is inviting us to learn and imitate the *hesed* of GOD

- 1) God blesses obedience and rewards; 2) Works THROUGH humans; 3) Often asks us to be THE answer to our prayers! 4) Suspense; 5) Ultimate GOEL.

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples