

Ruth Chapter 2:4-23

“Blessing!”

November 23rd 2012

Introduction

- As we have been learning over the past few weeks – Ruth is a beautiful love story and one of the most treasured works of literature in all of history
 - It is true story – don’t misunderstand me – a true story that effects the lineage of King David of Israel and then the ultimate son of David – Jesus Christ
- But this true story is written with such prose and poetry and it is a riveting read
 - In fact it was interesting to me to watch you guys last week, just sitting in the congregation as Pastor Rob was teaching, he stopped in verse 3 of chapter 2 and I have never seen so many heads down reading “what happens next”

And I understand that... but

- Don’t you do that today, or I will call you out – Listen I prepared a message, I have notes, you can read chapter 3-4 anytime you want
 - Okay – so I’m kidding – about the calling you out part, I really did prepare for today, I really do have notes
- But I mention that because this story is so good
 - It is play with really a few distinctive scenes, a few distinctive parts – each one teaching us an important lesson – The first we saw 2 weeks ago

The Book of Ruth

Act One – Decision – Ruth 1:1-22

Act Two – Providence – Ruth 2:1-3

Act Three – Blessing – Ruth 2:4-23

The Book of Ruth

Act One – Decision – Ruth 1:1-22

- Elimelech and his wife Naomi with their two boys made a decision to leave Israel and go to the land of Moab, as pastor Rob pointed, in order so they would not die
 - But it was a wrong and rebellious decision and the exact opposite happened – all but Naomi died in Moab
- Then Naomi has a decision to make, and she decides to go back home, back to Israel back to the place she was suppose to be at
 - And finally Ruth, who had married one of Naomi’s sons, had a decision to make – would she leave Naomi and stay in Moab, her homeland, or would she decide to follow her mother-in-law
 - And Ruth decides to go with Naomi and unlike her sister Orpah who disappears from the pages of scripture – Ruth will be part of the lineage of David and more importantly Jesus Christ
- The lesson – our decisions are really important and that is even more so true when it is a decision to follow Jesus or not

Act Two – Providence – Ruth 2:1-3

- The second act of this play can be summed up with the Word providence
 - In verse 3 it says, that Ruth just so happened to go to the field of Boaz but the structure of the Hebrew is to demonstrate sarcasm – this was no happen stance, this wasn't luck as Pastor taught us last week - This was the providence of God
- It's not that Ruth didn't have a part, she decided to go out and glean, but as we are going – the Lord leads us providentially into good things

Act Three – Blessing – Ruth 2:4-23

- That is where we pick it up for this morning's study as we see this third act open up
 - We began with decision
 - We have seen the providence of God
 - And now we are going to see His blessing

And the first thing I want you to notice is The source of blessing for Ruth = Boaz

- The source of blessing is the man by the name of Boaz
 - We are introduced to him in verse one of chapter two where he is described as...

“a man of great wealth” – NKJV

“a man of standing” – NIV

“a wealthy and influential man” – NLV

“a worthy man” – ESV

- I mention and draw your attention to these difference translations because I want you to understand the Bible is saying much more than this guy was loaded with cash
 - This man had great standing in his community, he had lots of money for sure, but he also had lots of influence
 - This man was worthy
- And I think that translation does the best to explain the Hebrew description of him

For what the Bible is saying is Boaz is worthy for us to notice and emulate in our lives

- I mean not only does he have a great name – Bo
 - Does that just draw up connotations in your mind ladies of **Dukes of Hazard – pic of Bo**
- So not only does he have a great name, but Bo is a man worthy for you and I to imitate
 - And the first thing I think we should notice about him is what a great boss he is

Things to notice and emulate about Boaz

#1 – He was a blessing to work for – Ruth 2:4-7

- how many of you would say – yeah this is not my normal work day
 - Boaz the boss comes in and says – “The Lord bless you, and these blue collar field workers respond – and the Lord bless you
- Not like your work day huh? – the boss comes in – The love of Jesus Christ

be upon you – and you all stick up your heads around the corner, out from behind your desks like a group of prairie dogs – oh – the love of Jesus Christ be upon you –

- No – you are probably thinking right now - well my boss uses the words “Jesus” and “Christ” but its not really a blessing when my boss says it
- Yeah this is not my experience at all

Well that is why God wants you to notice this

- Many of you people in the room have men or women who work for you
 - Most of us have people we work with
 - And I don’t know about you – but I want to learn from this – that the people who consider me their boss and those that consider me their co workers – I want it to be that I like Boaz am a blessing to them
- And we all can grow in this area
 - I know working here at the church no body is a jerk using profanity like many you face, but I know I can fall into the trap where – hey we are on mission, the Kingdom is important, souls are at stake – lets get focus and get going
 - And although that is all true – the Lord is continually helping me to see – aren’t you thankful for the Youth pastors – I really am – let them know

Aren’t you thankful for those serving in countless behind the scenes ministries

- making sure the sound and lights work right - amen
 - making sure the temperature in here is set - yes
 - making sure the coffee is made and phones are answered and the property looks good, parking cars
 - ministering to our kids
- making those delicious egg burritos – oh God bless you guys out there in the courtyard, I know you can here my right now – God bless you guys, thank you
 - you see Pastor Rob and I get all the credit
 - Wow – great sermon, I was so touched – and don’t misunderstand me – keep it up, my fragile ego doesn’t know what to think when you just stare at me for 45 minutes and then do the same as you leave –(Make a face) - are you okay, did I upset you, - I don’t mind the occasion blessing
- But have you taken time today to thank that children’s ministry worker – to tell them how blessed you are that they are pouring into your kids
 - Have you told the guys and gals in the back how blessed you are that they prepare all that wonderful food and fellowship opportunities
 - I appreciate the great encouragement that you guys send my way – but I don’t about Pastor Rob but I don’t think I could get all the doors unlocked and the all the light on by myself
 - And the Lord is encouraging me – that is true, so bless those you serve with

- And maybe that would apply to you where you work, where you serve
- Boaz was a blessing to work with
 - But his being a blessing didn't stop there

Things to notice and emulate about Boaz

#1 – He was a blessing to work for – Ruth 2:4

#2 – He was a blessing to Ruth – Ruth 2:5-16

- you attention please, don't keep reading I know it's a good story, you can read on your own time
 - Boaz is not just a blessing to work for
 - Boaz is a blessing to Ruth
- He sees this young gal, who has had some hard times – she is not all dressed up at the club, she is dirty working in the field
 - Formally married
 - Totally broke
- And Boaz does whatever he can to bless her
 - Just stay in my field and take whatever you like
 - He, verse 16 actually tells his reapers to purposely leave just chunks of grain on the ground for her
 - He feeds her, provides for her
- Protects her
 - He lets all his young men know – you see that Moabite girl – yeah I do (deviously)
 - Well if you touch her all I'm saying is I own large field and they will never find your body, I'm I clear – I'm will go Old Testament all over you – are we clear – crystal ball – where did the Lord bless you go? – the Lord will all you have left to bless you if you touch that girl – understood?

And the best part to all of this for me is we will see later in the book he has no idea that she would be interested in him

- this is not ploy to get her in bed, this is not setting himself up to woo her
 - this is how he treats everyone in her condition is the indication of the text

Not again, Boaz is someone we are to consider, to notice and do so in order to emulate in our lives

- and I think this is of the utmost importance for you in the room that are single men
 - As a former youth pastor, I get asked all the time – what does the Bible say about dating? How am I suppose to have a relationship in this day and age from a biblical perspective

And it is really a tough question because they didn't date in the Bible

- for the most parts marriages were arranged and they were arrange young
 - so teen dating and sexual purity weren't really an issue because just about the time you were explaining the facts of life to them they were within a year or less a young mom or young dad
- And as Father of a 10 year old girl – I'm personally glad I'm not planning her

wedding right now

- But because of the culture we live in I get to have my little girl for a little longer, but a whole new set of challenges soon arise – how do we biblical date? – Our culture looks at the Bible and think how outdated, but our system doesn't work too well – so don't ignore the Bible

Well whenever I am asked that question I always turn to the book of Ruth

- because it is the closest thing we have in scripture of a dating modern boy meets girl relationship
 - so we can learn from this story what would honor the Lord in our behavior

Because the current idea of dating is finding someone to make out with and whoever happens to be that person in your life when life comes to a season where you are ready to be married, you then married and hope for the best – that thinking is producing the 60% divorce rate in church

Instead we see in Boaz – he is seeking to be a blessing to this girl

- what can I do to bless her
 - what can I do to get to know her
 - to build a friendship with her
- there is no physical relationship whatsoever

I personally think that is great mistake in our culture

- because you are young, hormones are raging, kissing and other stuff is fun – so then relationship are built on that
 - there is not effort to get to build a relationship on a spiritual level or even a simple friendship level
 - it all physical attraction
- And the problem with that is study after study shows that naturally in relationships we have this honeymoon period where we don't see faults in one another – love is blind, it is at first – and the physical side of things just compounds that
 - But once that begins to naturally wane, if friendship hasn't been developed, if spiritual companionship hasn't been built, the physical side of relationship will never carry you through
 - And the evidence we see marriage after marriage fail around this time frame – and the same time frame holds for couples that just live together – celeb couples – a year or two and that's it!

That is why it is so important – the physical stuff is an important part of marriage but as it says...

“Don't awaken love until it pleases” – Song of Solomon 2:2, 3:5, 8:4

- Don't go down that road until it is able to be fulfilled the right way in marriage

“It is not good for a man to touch a women” – I Corinthians 7:1

- Touch means in a way that arouses
 - It is not good to walk down that path – Paul goes on to say – let a man get married – you can't hold to that forever, so when it is time get married
 - But until then – don't touch

Well then what do I do???

- you build the other parts of a relationship
 - you build friendship
 - you build spiritual companionship
 - you talk – find times to talk not make out

Did you notice verse 14?

- he said to her at mealtime – girls like to talk, you need to talk to develop the other parts of relationship – so occasion – make time to talk
 - he took her to eat
 - not the movies, no talking there – nothing wrong with some movies
 - not to the concert – nothing wrong with some concerts, but no talking there
- He took her to eat, he paid for it
 - What do I do instead of kiss – go out to eat, and every once in a while not at a place where high school kids in uniform work where you order through a talking clown
 - A real restaurant – and you buy
- Don't go Dutch – I don't know what horrible thing happened in the Netherlands, but you are not Dutch, you are Christian – so you bless that girl
 - You listen to her, find out what she like to do, what she like to eat, what blesses her heart
 - And that is what you occupy your time with
- Am I close here ladies – I'm trying to help you out

Old Bo, Boaz is occupied with blessing Ruth, not with using Ruth to meet his physical needs

- and that, not, “want to come over and make out” is the foundation for the greatest love story in the Bible
 - and God wants you to take notice, to emulate this man Boaz

But it is actually deeper than that

- for when I say the ‘greatest love story in the Bible’ I guess that is not exactly true
 - for the greatest love story in the Bible is not found just in the book of Ruth
 - but from cover to cover in the Gospel
- That you and were lost and destitute without Him – we weren't just down on our luck, we were dead in our trespasses and sins and then – Jesus... Jesus died for unworthy sinners like you and me

Things to notice and emulate about Boaz

Boaz was...

#1 – A blessing to work for – Ruth 2:4

#2 – A blessing to Ruth – Ruth 2:5-16

#3 – A blessed picture of Jesus – Ruth 2:17-23

- There whole book is a giant picture of what Christ has done for us
 - And I will leave the redemption side of that picture for Pastor Rob over the next few weeks
 - But understand where we are thus far

Christianity at its core can be summed up as Israel's rebellion equaled Gentle redemption

- that is what Paul tells us in Romans chapter 11

“I say then, have they (Israel) stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles”

- Israel rebellion lead to Gentle redemption

And when you think about it this is exactly what is happening in this story of Ruth

- Elimelech his family leave the promise land in rebellion
 - And though it doesn't work out good for them, it brings about an opportunity for a Gentile, Ruth, to be blessed, to be saved

So Naomi is a picture of Israel – rebellion in her family brings about an opportunity for Boaz a picture of Jesus to bless Ruth

- so that makes Ruth, the gentle bride, a picture of who? – of you and a picture of me
 - what a picture that is

Did you notice in our story the state that Ruth was in when Boaz was first drawn to her?

- she wasn't all dolled up
 - she didn't have on her party dress, she wasn't looking good
 - she was destitute, beat down, no hope
 - and Boaz shows up and says, “Who is that?”
- that is how Jesus sees you friend
 - sometimes we think God was lucky when he got me
 - well – I'm sure glad for your kingdom I showed up Jesus – didn't you get a real deal

But those of you in that delusional state, you need to hear the truth

“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.” – I

Corinthians 1:26-29

- you see the truth

We think God got some great deal when He got us

- the truth is, God said – Hey look at Jason over there, he is pretty weak, he is pretty foolish, he is kind of dumb, he is kind of despised
 - He is broke, beat down, lost
 - Yes – lets set our love upon Him – He will do just fine
- And the reason God does it this way is then He gets the glory for our lives
 - When people say – well of course God blessed him, he is just so amazing!!!
 - Then God doesn't really get the glory

But Jesus deserves the glory, because whether we realize it or not, whether we see it or not

- He is the hero
 - Ruth is not the hero
 - She is beat down, she is broke, she is begging
 - And Bo shows up and lavishes blessings upon her
 - The same thing happened to you and me
- Jesus is our hero
 - He is our savior
 - Are we clear on that???
 - This is where you respond Calvary Chapel Vista
 - Are we clear on that??
- So that does mean we have no part to play
 - We just sit back and receive the blessing from our Bo, from our Boaz, Jesus Christ?
 - No – that is not true
 - For notice....

But then notice the advice Naomi gives Ruth – [verse 17-23](#)

- Jesus is the hero
 - But now Ruth – you stay in His field and with His people!!!

We are so blessed God lead us to the field of Boaz, Ruth

- but now you listen to me girl
 - You stay in his field – don't go venturing off to see if the pickings are as good in this other field
 - Don't you start hanging out with the servants of another master
 - You stay in his field and with his people and you will continue to be blessed

Oh precious church we need to hear this

- Jesus is our hero
 - He chose you not because of anything you had done
 - He wasn't blessed by party dress and your make up
 - He wasn't wooed by your beautiful
- When He choose you, you were beat down, tired, broke and beginning
 - And He lavished His blessing upon us
 - All true

But that doesn't mean that you don't have a part to play

- now that you have received His blessing
 - you need to stay in His blessings
 - how??
- By staying in His field and with His people!

He has given us a fertile field full of blessings

- His Word my friends
 - I don't know about others, but the reason in almost every sermon I get around to encouraging you to read your Bible and pray everyday
 - Is not because it makes God love you more and makes you more saved

It is because I have found, there is no field like this field

It is always full of blessing

- I don't know about you, but I have read this book many times
 - At least every year since I was 12 that would make 22 times if you are keeping track
 - There have been seasons that I have read it every four months, 3 times a year
- And I say that not to impress you, but so you will understand, there is not a passage where I go wow I have never read that before, like some of you newer believers
 - Some of you have no idea what is coming in Ruth chapter 3 and when you read that Ruth sneaks to Boaz's bed and lays at his feet some of you are going to say – what is going on – come back next week and Pastor Rob will help us understand
 - But I don't have those experiences anymore

But, oh this field, every day I get up to read, every afternoon I pick it up, every night when I let it speak into my heart, there is always something fresh

- and it seems to always speak to right where I am at, or right to someone I love and care about and I can call them up and send them a message
 - and there is no field like this field – I keep encouraging you this way, not to shame you, I am jealous for you to know this too

Because there is something devious in us that thinks, well I know the Word of God is alive and powerful and profitable for all I need for life and godliness

- but this field over here – what is happening in this field? – oh this one over here, wow, that makes me feel a little funny, I like that field

The enemy sets a trap and tricks us to go over this field or that field where we think we are going to find fulfillment and blessing

- but instead of blessing we end up barfing
 - we end up blessing we end up begging God to save us from our stupidity
 - oh listen precious people of Calvary Chapel Vista
 - Stay in His field
 - I know the song of the sirens blaring from here and there promise such wonderful things
 - But there is not field like His

Stay in His field

- stay with His people
 - His people? – now listen – I know His Word, His field, His Kingdom, well it is perfect and it is what I need
 - But His people – what is such a blessing about that sinner over there or that headache sitting over there
 - Why with His people??

Because precious ones as we have been considering, God is sovereign, God knows what He is doing

- and the longer you walk down this road of life, what you see is God puts people in your life, people in your path
 - that at times rub you the wrong way, at times they irritate you
 - but after a while you start to realize I need these people to shape me into who God wants me to be
 - I need those in my family, I need those in my church to bless and irritate, to encourage and tear down to complete this work in my heart and in my life

As Peter says in his first epistle

“you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” – 1 Peter 2:5

- You are living stones
 - The picture is the temple they were building in Jerusalem
 - The stones were shaped so they fit together so perfectly, no mortar was needed
- They were shaped in the quarry, and then brought to the temple mount
 - And Peter says, God is doing this again, He is building a spiritual house
 - And you are the living stones that He is shaping and making just as He intends
- And just like those stones in the temple, before you become part of the temple He is shaping you, knocking off ruff edges, sanding our sides
 - You see this is the quarry – and God is using each other, to shape and mold you and make you just like Jesus intends
 - We try to run from one another, we try to isolate ourselves
 - Thinking that would be such a blessing

But God would say to some of us today – you want to be blessed

- listen I choose you for blessing, not because of anything you had done
 - but now – you need to stay in my blessing
 - you need to stay in my field, with my people
- precious church here me on this
 - We are saved by grace, you didn't deserve it
- And some of you two weeks ago came back to Him and heaven and our hearts, my heart rejoices

But now – listen to the old maid Naomi – you stay in his field, you stay with his people

- You learn from Naomi who realized she went out full and came back empty – nothing good dwelled out there
 - You stay with Jesus!
 - Because there is no one like Him

Just like Boaz has done for Ruth, Jesus has done for you

- He has set His favor upon you – Boaz says to his workers, I want you to just throw handfuls of blessing on purpose on the ground, just for her
 - You do that one purpose

So Jesus our Boaz

- He has purposely put handfuls of blessing in your life – Ephesians chapter 2 – you just need to walk in them – to walk after Him

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” – Ephesians 2:10

- Jesus has prepared blessing for us beforehand
 - I love how the KJV of Ruth 2:16 – “Handfuls of purpose” – there is a purpose God has for you –
 - There is something He wants to do in and through you – so you grab a hold of Him and then walk in the blessing He has for you!!!!
- This story is going to end good for this undeserving Gentile – she stays in his field and with his people – and she will be blessed
 - The question is - how will the story end for you??? – people of Calvary Chapel Vista
 - How will the story end for you – Blessing?
 - Then stay in His field, and stay with His people
 - Lets pray