**Message Outline:**

1. (v1-12) The Big Deal Sealed

B. (v13-17) The Big Blessing Stated

1. (v18-22) Epilogue – God’s Great Big Story

For Further Discussion:

What is the family obligation to land? (Lev. 25:23-28)

Considering the times, how would redeeming both a field *and* a widow economically affect the redeemer? Boaz?

In light of their business dealings, what qualities are revealed in the redeemer? In Boaz?

Compare and contrast Naomi’s and Ruth’s situation now with the events in chapter 1. In what areas of life has God cared for their needs?

Summarize the outstanding qualities of Naomi; of Ruth; of Boaz

What’s the importance of the genealogies at the end of chp 4?

What do you think is the main theme of the book of Ruth? Why is this story of ordinary people important in the history of Israel? To us?

Some further thoughts on Ruth 4 . . .

How do I fit into God’s Big Story? More to the point, how does *this* set of trials/season of my life fit into God’s plan? I know God is sovereign, and I believe His promise of Romans 8:28, “all things work together for good, for those who love Him and are called to His purpose.” But on the surface of things, my life seems insignificant and not contributing much at all to God’s greater glory. How do I fit into His Big Story? Maybe, *do I even fit in?*

Going on into the book of Ruth, we’re at another crossroads. Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz are on the same wavelength about the redemption proposal. If all goes well, Boaz will redeem Naomi’s family land **and** take Ruth to be his wife, carrying on the family line of Elimelech. But there’s a hitch – the closer relative has first rights on the land, and it looks like he’s going to take advantage of it. Will God’s plan be thwarted? Will this minor “love story” of faith and hope add up to nothing?

Here’s where God’s great purposes fit with man’s plans and initiative. Boaz obeys the Law and customs of his day by offering the closer redeemer the land. All hope seems lost when he takes the offer, until . . . . Boaz links the land with the woman. The Law mentions how the redeemer would have to beget a son for the sake of the previous (dead) husband. In terms of inheritance law then, the land, and even some of the redeemer’s original estate could go to this son of Ruth. Not a good deal if you’re only in it for money. But if you’re like Boaz, it’s more about love, about honor, and about God’s greater glory. The first man says no. Boaz takes the risk, says “yes, I will redeem,” for the sake of Ruth and what is right. Our history, even the messianic line (see v17, then Matthew 1:5-16) takes shape.

Review (& memorize for handy reference) these valuable truths:

**God’s Great, Grand Purposes:**

1. To Exalt His Name to the Highest Place
2. To Lay Low the Pride of Man
3. To Redeem His Own to Himself

Remembering these three truths will help you in your reading of the Bible and discerning what God has been doing in all of history, including your own life. In other words, ask yourself, “how could God be using this circumstance to (1, 2, 3 above) to advance His great, grand purpose?”

Specific to the Process of Redemption there are three basic requirements of a redeemer: (from Counter-Cultural by David Platt, chp 5)

1. *He must have the* ***RIGHT*** *to redeem*; he must be of the same lineage, family line
2. *He must have the* ***RESOURCES*** *to redeem*; the power, money, assets, etc
3. *He must have the* ***RESOLVE*** *to redeem*; the willingness to go all the way through, to accomplish this task

Beyond the events of Ruth 4, how do you see Jesus as the ultimate Redeemer filling all these requirements?

Lastly, Ruth 4:13 seems like a simple verse, common in life to any couple in most every society. Yet it’s obvious that these seemingly simple actions/convictions are being blatantly questioned in American society as we speak. In gracious love, kindness, respect and understanding (even to those who disagree with God’s Word) we hold firmly to these truths from God’s Word:

* God’s clear design for marriage, without exception, is for a man (husband) and a woman (wife), committed for life in exclusive, monogamous relationship before and for God (see Gen 2:24 and several other verses)
* Sexual intimacy is reserved and enjoyed totally and exclusively within the committed marriage relationship. Any intimate behavior outside of the marriage relationship is sin against God’s will (Heb 13:4; Eph 5:3-6, 1 Cor 6 & 7)
* We celebrate the undeniable fact that God gives life from the moment of conception, acknowledging God as He who gives and bestows both life and death – His right over man’s will. We reflect God in valuing every life in every stage of development (Psalm 139:13-16, and several other verses)

Though many voices in our world today spout-off a contrary message that often assault even believer’s sensibilities, we will listen and obey the Shepherd’s voice (John 10:14-16), letting God be true while all men be liars.” (Romans 3:4)

 ***And because God is glorious, we have hope!***

In His Grace

Pastor Randall

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

***God’s Big Story* Ruth Chapter 4**

**Bay Point Church May 31, 2015**

Sermon notes