

Sermon Notes | LOVE | 03082026 | The Well Community Church- Indian Service

Greetings in the name of the LORD and savior Jesus Christ, welcome to the well community church – Indian Service

TITLE: A LOVE THAT LEADS TO THE REDEEMER

TEXT: RUTH 1:16–17

Today on this Women's Day we reflect on one of the most beautiful and profound stories in the Bible, the story of Ruth. The book of Ruth is small in length, yet it contains deep spiritual truth and reveals the heart of God's redemptive plan. At first glance it appears to be a simple story about a family tragedy and a loyal daughter-in-law. But when we read carefully, we discover something much deeper. The story of Ruth is ultimately a story about redemption, and every part of the story points us toward Jesus Christ. Ruth was not a queen or a prophet. She was not born among the people of Israel. She was a Moabite woman, a foreigner, a widow, and someone who appeared to have no future. Yet God took her broken situation and placed her into the greatest story ever told, the story that leads to the birth of Jesus Christ. Ruth reminds us that God often writes His greatest plans through the lives of ordinary people who simply choose faith, loyalty, and obedience.

CHAPTER ONE: A LOVE THAT CHOOSES GOD AND LOYALTY

The story begins during the time of the judges, a time when Israel was spiritually unstable and often distant from God. The Bible tells us that there was a famine in the land of Bethlehem. Bethlehem means "house of bread," yet during this time even the house of bread experienced hunger. Because of this famine a man named Elimelech left Bethlehem with his wife Naomi and their two sons and moved to the land of Moab. They were searching for food and survival during a difficult season. At first the move may have

seemed wise, but tragedy soon followed. Elimelech died, leaving Naomi a widow. Later Naomi's sons married Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth. For a moment it seemed life might stabilize again, but after about ten years Naomi's two sons also died. Suddenly Naomi found herself in a foreign land without her husband and without her sons. Her life was filled with grief and uncertainty. Naomi heard that the Lord had provided food again for His people in Bethlehem, so she decided to return home. As she began the journey back, her daughters-in-law Ruth and Orpah walked with her. Naomi encouraged them to return to their families because she felt she had nothing left to offer them. Orpah eventually returned to Moab, but Ruth made a decision that changed her life forever. Ruth spoke the famous words recorded in Ruth 1:16–17, "Do not urge me to leave you or 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." These words reveal something deeper than family loyalty. Ruth was choosing the God of Israel. She was turning away from the idols of Moab and placing her faith in the living God. In that moment Ruth stepped across a spiritual boundary. She moved from being an outsider to becoming part of God's covenant people. This moment points us directly to the message of the gospel. Ruth was a Gentile outsider, yet she was welcomed into the people of God. In the same way Jesus Christ came so that salvation would not be limited to one nation but extended to all people. Through Jesus Christ people from every nation, language, and background are invited into God's family. Ruth's decision reminds us that following God often requires leaving something behind. Ruth left her homeland, her culture, and her security. In the same way Jesus calls us to leave our old life and follow Him with complete commitment.

CHAPTER TWO: A LOVE THAT SERVES WITH FAITH AND HUMILITY

When Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem the town was surprised to see Naomi again. Naomi felt overwhelmed with grief and said, "Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter." Naomi believed her life had become empty. But while Naomi saw bitterness, God was quietly preparing a new chapter of blessing. Ruth stepped into the role of provider. She went to the fields to gather leftover grain so that she and Naomi would have food to eat. According to the law of Israel poor people were allowed to gather leftover grain from the fields after the harvesters had passed through. This work was physically demanding and humbling, but Ruth did it willingly. One day Ruth entered a field belonging to a man named Boaz. Boaz was a relative of Naomi's family and a man known for kindness and integrity. When Boaz saw Ruth working diligently, he asked about her and learned about her loyalty to Naomi. Boaz showed great kindness to Ruth and allowed her to remain in his fields safely. He even instructed the workers to leave extra grain for her. Boaz said to Ruth, May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge. Those words reveal something powerful. Ruth had come to take refuge under God's wings. This is a beautiful picture of what it means to come to Jesus Christ. Jesus welcomes the weary, the broken, and the outsider. Just as Boaz welcomed Ruth with grace, Jesus welcomes sinners with mercy. The kindness Boaz showed Ruth reflects the heart of Christ. When we come to Jesus we find refuge, protection, and grace that we do not deserve.

CHAPTER THREE: A LOVE THAT SEEKS REDEMPTION

As the story continues Naomi realized that Boaz could act as a kinsman redeemer. According to the law of Israel a kinsman redeemer was a close relative who could restore a family's inheritance and protect their future. Naomi instructed Ruth to approach Boaz and ask for his protection and

redemption. One night Ruth went to the threshing floor where Boaz was resting and laid herself at his feet. When Boaz woke up he was surprised to see her there. Ruth asked him to spread his garment over her as a sign that he would redeem and protect her. This moment carries deep spiritual meaning. Ruth was asking Boaz to restore what had been lost. Humanity also stands in need of redemption. Because of sin the human race became separated from God. We became spiritually poor and unable to save ourselves. But Jesus Christ came into the world as our Redeemer. Just as Boaz was willing to redeem Ruth, Jesus willingly gave His life to redeem us. Redemption always requires a price. Boaz had to take responsibility to redeem Ruth's family line. Jesus paid the ultimate price by dying on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven. Through His sacrifice we are restored into relationship with God.

CHAPTER FOUR: A LOVE THAT BRINGS RESTORATION AND A SAVIOR

In the final chapter Boaz publicly declares his intention to redeem Ruth. He marries her and restores Naomi's family line. Naomi who once felt empty now holds a grandson in her arms. The town celebrates the goodness of God. Ruth and Boaz have a son named Obed. Obed becomes the father of Jesse and Jesse becomes the father of King David. Through that royal family line the Messiah would eventually come. This means Ruth, the foreign widow from Moab, became part of the genealogy of Jesus Christ. What began as a story of loss and famine became a story of redemption and hope. God used Ruth's faithfulness to accomplish His greater plan of salvation. The story of Ruth reminds us that God can take broken situations and transform them into testimonies of His grace. Jesus redeems us. Just as Ruth was welcomed into God's family, we too are welcomed through faith in Jesus Christ. The Redeemer who changed Ruth's story is the same Redeemer who can change our story today.

CONCLUSION

The story of Ruth teaches us that love remains faithful even in difficult seasons. Ruth chose loyalty when life was uncertain. She chose faith when the future was unclear. She chose commitment when it required sacrifice. But above all Ruth's story points us to Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Through Jesus our past can be forgiven, our future can be restored, and our lives can become part of God's greater story. May we follow the example of Ruth by choosing faithfulness, humility, and devotion to God. And may we always remember that the Redeemer who worked in Ruth's life is still working today. Amen.

