

Sermon: God Works in a Mysterious Way
Series: *Ruth: A Redemption Story*

Scripture: Ruth 1
Date: April 18, 2021

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) In what ways do we see the faithfulness of God in Ruth 1? How is God being faithful to Israel? To Naomi? To you and me?

2) What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Can you relate to Naomi in this first chapter? Have you ever felt about God the way she does (v.13,20,21)?

b) Where can you identify bitterness in your life? Where are you avoiding commitment/community/Christ because of this bitterness?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) In what way is Ruth a picture of Christ? And, in what way is Ruth a picture of what we can be in Christ?

b) Read Ruth 4:18-22. How does this end of the book point to God's salvation for all mankind?

APPLICATION

a) Is there an area of your life where you need to return to the Lord? Remember Naomi began her return without being "cleaned up."

b) Is there anyone in your life that God is asking you to be a "Ruth" to? Someone you need to "cling to" when everyone else has given up on them?

c) Naomi couldn't see all the ways that God was at work. If you are feeling spiritually discouraged like Naomi was think about the following parts of her story that she was blind to. What about you? Can you see what God is doing?

- Naomi returned home – what have you done in faith recently? How have you turned to God?
- Ruth went with Naomi – who has God put in your life that is guiding you toward his grace?
- It was barley harvest – where have you seen God change a circumstance in your life for the better?

FIGHTER VERSES: Colossians 3:1-4.

PRAYER

- Praise God for faithfulness in your life through Christ - especially in the darkest of times.
- Repent (Return) from any bitterness or wandering of the heart away from God's love and care.
- Ask God to remove your bitterness and strengthen you by Christ's *hesed* (loyal love).
- Ask God to show you who needs a Ruth in their life to strengthen them.