

Ruth Part 6: "Hold Fast to the Redeemer" (10-22-2017)

Review: First 2 weeks: Hold Fast to the King, His People, His Grace, His Rest, His Promise

This Week: Hold Fast to the Redeemer

Ruth 4:13-17 (ESV)

(13) So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. (14) Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! (15) He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." (16) Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. (17) And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

1) Hold Fast to Eternity

Ruth 4:13 (ESV)

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Ruth 4:10 (ESV)

Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

Note: The child born to Ruth & Boaz, continued the line of Elimelech & Naomi, the line of Ruth & Mahlon

In God's Kingdom - The Past is never truly Lost or Wasted (name of the dead perpetuated)

Oldest book in the Bible is the story of Job: In it, he loses everything, wealth, possessions, and children. After walking through all that suffering, His wealth is returned and he has more kids . . .

Job 1:1-3 (ESV)

(1) There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. (2) There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. (3) He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.

Job 42:12-13 (ESV)

(12) And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. (13) He had also seven sons and three daughters.

Note: Job gains back double of possession, but only the same amount of kids. Why? **Eternal Life in Heaven!**

Job 19:23-26 (ESV)

(23) Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! (24) Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! (25) For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. (26) And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God

Note: Job understood something, just like Ruth - We have a Redeemer, and so . . . **We have eternal hope!**

2) Hold Fast to New Life today**Ruth 4:14-15 (ESV)**

(14) Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! (15) He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

Note: No matter how old you are, now matter how much you have gone through. You can embrace new life now!

Remember where Naomi came from: She fled her country, lost her husband and 2 sons, but now

She has gained a daughter-in-law better than 7 sons!

She has gained a child in her old age!

Don't let losses or obstacles rob you from the life Jesus wants to give you – Now!

3) Hold Fast to the Child**Ruth 4:16-17 (ESV)**

(16) Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. (17) And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Note: The Son has been born to whom? (Actually Ruth, but they recognized this child was bringing life to Naomi!)

Obed means "worshipper" – that's what it means to holdfast to our redeemer. We become worshippers.

This reminds me of another child who was born. Let's read the announcement the angels gave to the shepherds . . .

Luke 2:10-12 (ESV)

(10) And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (12) And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Note: Jesus coming as a child – he is the Savior, but also He needs to be nursed and cared for. We should nurse the child we have been given, for He shall be life to us!!!

Luke 2:20 (ESV)

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Note: The child holds the key to Joy & Purpose - "Good News of Great Joy!"

And now, what is the shepherd's job? **Worship**

So, like Naomi, we need to nurse Him (worship Him): Questions to consider

Is there room in your life for Good News of Great Joy?

Can you believe that all the losses are redeemed in Him?

Will you embrace new-life & new-joy today?

Can you Hold Fast to the child?

Conclusion: True worshippers see the story as it unfolds all the while with an eye on eternity, they hold onto Jesus through it all, and when they hold redemption in their lap – they worship!