



# Ruth

## A STORY OF REDEMPTION

August 4, 2013 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

### **PART 1: A FUNERAL, TWO WEDDINGS, & TWO MORE FUNERALS**

RUTH 1:1-5 (& JUDGES 2:6-23)

#### *The Background of Ruth:*

#### **The Five W's...**

**WHEN: THE TIME OF THE JUDGES**

**WHY: FAMINE IN ISRAEL**

**WHO: ELIMELECH, NAOMI, 2 SONS & WIVES**

**WHERE: BETHLEHEM & MOAB**

**WHAT: GOD'S REDEMPTION OF NAOMI & RUTH.**

#### *Ruth 1:1-5 – A Key Progression:*

v. 1: **SOJOURN**

v. 2: **REMAINED**

v. 4: **LIVED THERE**

#### *Responding to the "Bitter Pill"...*

The opening verses of Ruth give us the background to Naomi's bitterness. Because of her husband's choices, she was now left alone in a foreign land, widowed and childless. It sets the stage for God to reverse Naomi's fortunes (to redeem her) in his kindness. Bitter trials and consequences prepare the way for the Lord's kindness to us.

- If it's due to your sin: **REPENT**
- If you've been sinned against: **FORGIVE**
- In everything: **REMEMBER GOD IS GOOD**

### 1:10 **HOMEWORK**

**Read Ruth 1:1-5 (for more, read Judges 2:6-23).**

From this passage, what are some of the key events and people that set up the context for the rest of the story of Ruth?

Why is it important to understand the context of the book of Ruth being in the time of the Judges?

**Read Deuteronomy 31:9-13.** How might the failure to obey the command given there explain the situation in Ruth 1:1-5?

**Read Romans 1:18-32.** What marks of the wrath of God can we see our society today?

Read Judges chapters 19 to 21. What were the consequences on society when 'everyone did as he saw fit'? How does this compare with what we see in our society today?

How does the "Key Progression" of Ruth 1:1-5 mirror our struggle with sin? When you recognize that progression in your life, how do you escape it?

How does the ordinary nature of the people in the book of Ruth encourage you?

Pastor Josh said that at the core of Redemption is reversal. The reversal of a bad situation at the expense of a redeemer. How has Jesus redeemed you? How have you experienced his redemption at different times in your life?

What experience do you have of bitter trials preparing the way for the Lord's kindness?

How can we best help a Christian friend who is going through such a trial?