

## **“Grace Changes Everything”**

### **Ruth 4:13-22**

#### **Sermon Series: Ruth: “A Story Of Romance And Redemption”**

##### **Introduction: John Newton testimony**

Think about where Naomi and Ruth were at the beginning of the book of Ruth. Ruth was a Moabite idol worshipper. Naomi was following her husband to Moab to escape a famine. However, when they did this and their sons married Moabite women (one of them being Ruth), they were getting out of the will of God.

Elimelech, her husband, and her two sons died. She was left a widow with two daughters-in-law to take care of. Fortunately, Ruth would not abandon her when she chose to return to Bethlehem. However, as Naomi returned, she was broken and bitter because of her experiences. She had lost her family and her financial security.

Let's contrast that with where they are at the end of the story. Boaz has taken care of them. He chose to be the Kinsman-Redeemer and marry Ruth. This means that Naomi's land, financial security, name, lineage, and inheritance would be restored. They were blessed with a son who became the grandfather of the great king, David, who is a forerunner of the Messiah. They were now happy and full of hope. What made the difference. It was clearly the grace of God! **(Read text)**

##### **Main Idea: Grace changes everything.**

Grace is God's unmerited favor. It is His blessing when we deserve His judgment. How does grace change everything?

**1. Grace redeems our past (v. 13).** Ruth was called Ruth the Moabite at least five times during the course of this book. However, she is now Ruth, the wife of Boaz. She has been redeemed. She has a new name. The past is in the past. Boaz paid her debt and gave her his wealth. The grace of Jesus does the same thing for us. We are not who we were. We are new creations. We have a new name. Jesus has graciously exchanged our sin debt for His perfect righteousness. Our past is under the blood of Jesus. We have been purchased for God, and we are set free from sin, guilt, shame, and condemnation. We are justified, instantly and permanently delivered from the penalty of sin.

##### **Josh Charles question**

**Not Jimmy (or whoever) \_\_\_\_\_ anymore. I am redeemed, forgiven, accepted, a child of God, etc.**

**Story of the wheelchairs in Kenya**

**2. Grace reshapes our present. (v. 14-16, Titus 2:11-14).** Ruth and Naomi were different and had what they had because Ruth entered into a union with Boaz, the Kinsmen-Redeemer. Grace transforms us. It is sanctifying us, which means we are being delivered from the power of sin. It is not just for the sweet by and by, but it changes us in the nasty here and now. Kyle Walker said, “God brings His people from death to life, from curse to blessing, from bitterness to happiness, from emptiness to fulness, and from despair to hope.” Grace changes us on the inside, which empowers us to live differently outwardly.

**Illustration of our small group and cooking**

**3. Grace revolutionizes our future (v. 17-22).** This is ultimately pointing forward to the coming of the Messiah through the line of David (2 Samuel 7:12-14). Think about it, the Messiah, the King of Kings, had a Moabite in his lineage. Oh, and by the way, Boaz’s mom was Rahab the prostitute, which may explain why he was accepting of a Moabite wife. Obed, their son, was David’s grandfather. Practically, this shows us:

**A. God is working out His plan for our lives.** “Kyle Walker said, “God is weaving your story into His story; find your purpose and identity in Him. The same God at work in the lives of Ruth and Boaz and Naomi is at work in your life. God is using ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary purposes.”

**B. Our past or our family background does not keep God from accomplishing His plans for our future.**

**C. If we are in Christ, our ultimate future is in His Heavenly kingdom, where we are forever delivered from the presence of sin.**

**Kevin Bacon interview**

**Conclusion: Relate us to the characters in this story; Ephesians 2:1-10**