

Our Rebellion, God's Kindness

July 4, 2021
Ruth 1:1-22

Pastor Mark Turner
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

An Amazing Story set in the Ultimate Story

- Ruth a well-crafted Hebrew story, 4 chps, 85 verses
- Important book: Lk 24:27; 1 Cor 10:11; Rom 15:4

Ruth set in contrast to the Book of Judges

- God's people forsook the Lord, they followed & worshipped various gods. Provoked to anger, the Lord sent enemies & troubles among His people. As people cried out God raised up Judges to deliver, but people did what they wanted^{Jdg21:25}

The Ending Points Us to the Hope of God

- Ends with a genealogy Ruth 4:18-22 > King David
- Quoted in Mat 1:3-6; David foreshadows Christ 2 Sam 8:15

Our Story: Forsaking the Lord has Consequences

- Judges taught us one generation can't secure the faithfulness of the next. Each must trust God in faith!
- Ruth set in times of the Judges^{Judges2:14-15}. Ruth 1:1
- God is faithful in carrying out His promises good^{Gen12:7;13:14-17} and bad^{Lev26:14-20}.
- Story starts in Bethlehem (house of bread) when there was no bread (a time of famine)!
- God uses providence not just famine Rom 1:18-32
- But never forget the hope of the Gospel Act 17:30-31
- God provides ability to those who trust in Him 1 Pet 1:14-16

Ignoring God's Law is Dangerous

- Elimelech {*God is King*} didn't live his life by faith but by doing what was right in his own eyes^{Jdg21:25}
- Went to Moab against God^{Gen19:30-38;Num22-25;Dt23:3-6}
- Leaving promised land like many today who say they can have Jesus without His Church^{Gal6:6}. Trust God's plan!
- If you think church is flawed then use God's word to call God's people to repentance.

A Solid Faith

- Naomi's faith amidst difficult circumstances - she acknowledged God's sovereignty^{6,8-9,20-21}
- Naomi's faith in God brought her back
- God uses Naomi's faith to redeem Ruth and fulfill God's covenant with Abraham^{Gen12:3}

Lessons:

- Have you rebelled? Return to God in faith, God is gracious!
- God will provide what we so desperately need as we trust!
- We all face a bitter cup due to our rebellion^{Rom6:23}
- God is gracious, He sent Jesus to drink our bitter cup!^{Rom3:21-23}
- By faith revel in this Good News!

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