

LESSON 8: GOD'S BIGGER PICTURE

Intro:

BIG IDEA: God uses our seemingly _____ lives to _____ the kingdom of his Son.⁶²

“As far as any of them were concerned, Ruth and Boaz were average folk trying to do God’s will where he had sovereignly put them. They acted faithfully because of love for God that showed itself through love for God’s people.” **Dean Ulrich**⁶³

Unto Them a Child was Born

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.

- Boaz _____ his role as kinsman redeemer by taking Ruth to become his wife.
- He had a _____ in Ruth, and she in him.
- Their _____ activity achieved its purpose because the Lord gave her _____.
- The _____ of the elders, the couple and Naomi have been _____.
- Conception is never _____ from God’s point of view.
- We have to _____ in His goodness & wisdom even as we _____.
- The women rallied around Naomi filled with joy to praise God for His kindness & mercy.
- Boaz, their redeemer, is not there accidentally. He was _____ by God for this very purpose.
- Who is the “redeemer”? Boaz or Obed?
- This book ensures that Obed’s name was _____ in Israel. => Jesus, name above all names!
- This “_____ woman” and family have been _____ to life.
- _____ will provide for her and nourish her in her old age.
- Ruth is praised as worth _____ sons.
- Naomi _____ the boy & cares for him- “born to Naomi”.
- _____ Naomi has been _____. _____ Naomi overflows with _____.
- The women, not Boaz, named him Obed- “*one who serves or works*”. He would serve her, meeting her needs.
- His name _____ the character of both of his _____.

⁶² Ulrich, pp. 141.
⁶³ Ulrich, pp. 144.

- God always advances His kingdom thru _____, especially the Servant of the Lord (Isaiah 40-55; Philippians 2). Obed (a servant) => Christ (The Servant: obed YHWH)
- Finally the author plays his hand The grandfather of David!
- God was not only faithful to Ruth, but to the _____ of Israel in providing its greatest _____ in such an unlikely way.
- Judges, written about the same time, portrays the tribe of _____ in a very negative light. Saul, from Benjamin, was a very _____ king.

| Benjamin | Judah |
|--|--|
| ²¹ But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day. Judges 1 | ² The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.” Judges 1 |
| Benjamin led the people in following Deborah to victory (5:14) | |
| Israel wages war with Benjamin for their wickedness against the Levite (from Bethlehem) and his concubine. The men of Gibeah acted like the men of Sodom. (19-21) | ¹⁸ The people of Israel arose and went up to Bethel and inquired of God, “Who shall go up first for us to fight against the people of Benjamin?” And the LORD said, “Judah shall go up first.” Judges 20 |

This is a God that can be trusted with our individual lives, and the life of the Church.

“God used all of these events to bring about his own goals that were so much bigger than any of the characters involved in the story could have imagined.” **Iain Duguid**⁶⁴
 “Though we in our sin wandered away empty, and became hardheartedly bitter toward him, he had brought us back full indeed.” **Iain Duguid**⁶⁵

A Genealogy that Matters

¹⁸Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, ¹⁹Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, ²⁰Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, ²¹Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, ²²Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

- Ruth is ultimately a _____ of David’s lineage which was _____ by his enemies.
- David is descended of Judah in accordance with the prophecy of Jacob.
- Nahshon was Moses’ brother-in-law & designated as an elder in Judah (Ex. 6:23; Num. 1:7; 2:3).
- During Saul’s pursuit of David, Jesse would sojourn in _____ in the king’s residence (1 Sam. 22:3-4).

⁶⁴ Duguid, pp. 186.
⁶⁵ Duguid, pp. 192.

- Though she was a Moabite, Ruth was a faithful believer in _____.
- Jesus would face similar attempts to _____ his place as _____.

Famine => "Exile" => Marriages & Deaths => Return => Redemption => Conception => Hope

What part of this could God remove and maintain His purposes?

"The explanation for much that takes place in our lives lies well beyond our own lives, and may be hidden from us all through our lives! For God does not mean to touch only our lives by what he does in us; he has the lives of others in view- even those yet born." **Sinclair Ferguson**⁶⁶

Conclusion:

⁶⁶ Ferguson, pp. 145.