



Who did you meet at the church picnic?

SERMON REVIEW

If Ruth and Boaz married for more than romance, what might their additional reasons teach modern Christians about God's purposes for marriage other than romance?

What might Mr. So-'n-So look like today?

Ruth 4 recalls some of the less savory incidents in the unfolding history of God's plan of redemption. Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1 similarly names Tamar, Ruth, and Uriah's wife (Bathsheba). Why do you suppose that the Bible goes out of its way to present its human characters in a dysfunctional and tarnished way?

How would the birth of Obed increase Naomi's faith? Do you think that God intentionally brings hardship into people's lives so that he might impress them with his greatness and goodness? Can you describe a time in your life when a situation went from bad to worse and then to an amazing resolution that only God could have effected?

After Ruth's infertility for ten years, the birth of Obed seems nearly miraculous, yet what is more natural than the birth of a baby? How do you see the hand of God at work in the mundane affairs of your life?



The closer relative's decision to forego his right of redemption opens the way for Boaz to redeem Ruth. What does Boaz's willingness to redeem Ruth and perpetuate the name of Ruth's deceased husband show us about his values? How does this event compare with the portrayal of Boaz throughout the book (see Ruth 2:1, 4, 14–16; 3:15–17)? What steps do you need to take to ensure you emulate Boaz's character?

The women bless God for providing a redeemer for Naomi (4:14). They proclaim that Ruth is more valuable to Naomi than seven sons (4:15). Seven symbolizes completeness (see also Gen 2:2–3; Job 1:2). In biblical times, sons were valued because they could protect and provide for their mothers. In what ways was Ruth valuable to Naomi? How can you be valuable to others?