



RUTH RECAP

Ruth – historical narrative told with theological perspective

Historical narrative – end of ch 2;
hopeful:

- Naomi and Ruth have source of food through barley/wheat harvests
- Boaz = Kinsman (Guardian)-Redeemer
- Formal role within extended family
- Responsible for rescuing family member in crisis (particularly economic)



RUTH RECAP

Ruth – historical narrative told with theological perspective

Theological perspective

- Love – hesed; commitment to welfare of another even if it is costly; parallel to agape
- Boaz's treatment of Ruth
 - Stable, safe place to glean
 - Food/water
 - Acceptance
 - Blessing



RUTH RECAP

Ruth – historical narrative told with theological perspective

Theological perspective

- Special Providence – God’s active and ongoing sustaining, governing, and purposeful care for His people
- ‘As it happened’ Ruth was gleaning in Boaz’s field – God ‘got’ Ruth into that field



STONEBRIDGE
CHURCH



RUTH 3:1-18

3.1-6: Naomi's plan

Instructions to Ruth – communicate to Boaz that Ruth is 'marry-able'

- Bath/perfume – bridal preparations
- Dress – general word for clothes
 - Outer cloak – will be cool at night?
 - Has Ruth been in mourning clothes for entire 6 weeks she has lived in Bethlehem?
- Uncover Boaz's feet - ??



RUTH 3:1-18

3.6-15: Ruth proposes/Boaz accepts

- Spread the corner of your garment over me – marriage proposal
- Appeals to Boaz's character as
 - Kinsman-Redeemer
 - Possibly also as Levir – Levirate marriage ensured 'name' of a childless deceased man would not die out
- This kindness (hesed) is greater – best for Naomi for Ruth to marry Boaz



RUTH 3:1-18

God's providence and our initiative=

Leave room' for God to work

- Naomi gives detailed instructions to Ruth
 - Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes
 - Go down to the threshing floor, note the place where he is lying
- But leaves space for God to work
 - Go and uncover his feet and lie down; he will tell you what to do
- And God does - In the middle of the night something startled the man



RUTH 3:1-18

God's providence and our initiative
Willingness to be an answer to own
prayers

- 1.9: May the Lord grant that each of you will **find rest** in the home of another husband.
- 3.1: One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must **find a home** for you, where you will be well provided for."