

Sermon Notes

The Promised King In the Book of Ruth Covenant Love in the Midst of Chaos Ruth 1

The Bible is God's story. It is the revealed account of creation, fall, redemption and ultimately, recreation, uniting all things in the new heaven and new earth under the Jesus the King. From Genesis to Revelation God is at work bringing this about. God is working to this end even in the worst of times. This is what we see in the book of Ruth.

In 1773 William Cowper, following one of his many bouts of severe depression, wrote the hymn *God Moves In a Mysterious Way*. One verse of the hymn says:

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust him for his grace; Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face.

As we begin the Advent season, we read about and celebrate the covenant faithfulness of God as he moves in a mysterious way to bring about the rule and reign of The Promised King. That is what we see unfolding in the beautiful little book of Ruth. Ruth is about the coming Messiah. This is not just any story about a woman finding a husband or a widow finding a family. We find out at the end of the book that Ruth's descendants will be kings of Israel. She is part of the royal line that eventually leads to Jesus.

Scene One: Misery and Emptiness (Ruth1:1-5)

Judgment and famine

Flight and Loss

Scene Two: God's visitation and Ruth's Devotion (Ruth 1:6-18)

The Movement of God

A Logical Appeal

A Decision

Scene Three: A Bitter Heart and the Barley Harvest (Ruth 1:19-22)

Back Home

A Bitter Heart

The Harvest

Know

What does God intend for me to know? In your journal, use the following prompts to write some truths that stood out from this week's message.

I never knew...

I was reminded...

A question I still have...

I was challenged...

I was convicted...

I need to dig deeper into...

A truth I could share...

I was encouraged to...

Be (Consider) —

What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider? In your journal, use the following questions to write some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.

Is there a command to obey? How am I compelled to exalt God? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a principle to follow? Is there an example to follow? Am I convicted to confess any sin? Is there a sin to avoid? How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel? How can I pray for someone else? What am I compelled to love or desire?



How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.



Life Group Soup Night Wednesday, November 30 @ 6:00 p.m. Family Life Center

All Life Groups will meet together in the Family Life Center on Wednesday, November 30 at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite soup to share with your church family. If you are not involved in a Life Group, this would be a <u>GREAT</u> way to learn more about our Life Groups and find the one that is right for you and your family. (Kids in the Star Search program will have a <u>full dress</u> rehearsal at 6:30p.m. in the worship center. Be sure they go through the dinner line first.)

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor Jason Engle: Pastor of Students & Discipleship Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry Coordinator

Contact Us

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Upcoming Events

November 27 Christmas Decorating after service 30 Life Group Soup Night @ 6pm

<u>December</u> 3 Leaf Cleanup 3 Women's Ministry Event @ 5p.m. 4 Kid's Christmas Program @ 6p.m. 7 Member's Business Meeting @ 6:30p.m. 12 GS: Surviving the Holidays @ 6:30p.m. 21 Christmas Caroling @ 6p.m.