

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for December 11, 2022

Sermon Notes

The Promised King in the Book of Ruth Ruth 3: Hope, Risk, Integrity, & the Hidden Hand of God

Sometimes it seems God has forgotten his 'hesed' love. We see our circumstances through the lens of emotion rather than faith and conclude that God's covenant faithfulness has been set aside for a time. We've seen this in the story of Naomi and Ruth. Yet, as this story continues to unfold, we see in Ruth and Boaz and Naomi the reality that God will never leave or forsake his own (Hebrews 13:5), and he will be faithful to provide all we need and more as we trust in him (Psalm 37:3-4). God works through the bitter and the sweet to bring this about.

This provision always comes within the context of God's sovereign purposes. And those plans, more often than not, are worked out and accomplished through the mysterious combination of God's providential care and guidance along with our praying, waiting, and working. This is what we see unfolding in Ruth, especially in chapter three.

In the third chapter of Ruth, we see a change in Naomi. God has shown himself a faithful provider. Through God's kindness, Ruth's initiative and hard work, and Boaz's generosity, Naomi's emptiness and negativity have been reversed. Now we find her hoping and planning – some would say scheming – for Ruth to find a husband and all the security and provision that comes with that. The threshing floor plan is filled with unfamiliar cultural practices and contextual nuance. The narrative is filled with words that can have multiple meanings and not-so-subtle sexual undertones. The scene is provocative. On a practical level, it seems to be a risky scheme. On a much deeper level, we see the worthy character of Ruth and Boaz. Their integrity and holiness are apparent as we see the hidden hand of God governing actions, reactions, and responses that accomplish his good plans.

God has a wonderful plan for Ruth's life, and so does Naomi! (Ruth 3:1-5)

Ruth and Boaz's risky encounter on the threshing floor, which God blesses! (Ruth 3:6-13)

The morning after back at home, waiting in faith.....again! (Ruth 3:14-16)

The real love story behind this love story – our Redeemer.

Applications:

Weekly Discipleship Guide

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...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

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

Do (Yield)

**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.**

How do we see the truth of Proverbs 16:9 played out in Ruth 3? How have you come to understand the balance between planning our way and trusting in the Lord to establish our steps?

What is the benefit of having to wait on the Lord? How have you experienced God's goodness in the midst of waiting?

How does this idea of God as redeemer shape or color the Christmas season? What thoughts or responses are stirred within your heart and mind when you hear that term in reference to Jesus?

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

Westwood Staff

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Upcoming Events

December

12 GS: Surviving the Holidays @ 6:30 p.m.
21 Christmas Caroling @ 6 p.m.
23 Church Office Closed
24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE @ 6 P.M.
25 Worship Service ONLY @ 10:30 a.m.
26 Church Office Closed
30 Church Office Closed