

CALL to PRAYER -pray that our legacy at church, home and individually will be God honoring

Ruth 4:9-22 - A Lasting Legacy

INTRO - We are coming to the end of our excursion in Ruth. It's been a short story but a great story. It's a drama that hits the basics in life. Human interest, male/female, foreigner/citizen, rich/poor, converted/unconverted...like all good stories it goes from tragedy to triumph. The book of Ruth is not a long story, but it is a lasting story. 3300 years later and this story is still going strong and is so relevant to us in the 21st century. So, we are going to end our encounter with Ruth today by thinking about LEGACY. The real-life characters in this book left a lasting legacy... and I want us to note that... but I also want to consider what legacy we are leaving as individuals, as families, and as a church/denomination. None of last long here but we can all leave a legacy. The story of Ruth tells us that it is the basics in life (work/marriage/tragedy /character/conversion) that make a mark thru time and into eternity

- The Book of Ruth ends with a wedding, some blessings, a baby and lineage.
 - Unlikely marriage between the poor foreign widow and the rich businessman. The young Moabite convert and the old Jewish man made an odd couple but it is their marriage that marks time and eternity.
 - It seems the whole town of Bethlehem attends and blesses this marriage union
 - 4:9 – elders and all the people. 4:11-“people in the court and the elders”
 - They bless Ruth to be like: Rachel, Leah and Tamar (4:11b-12)
 - None of them scandal free but all had a great legacy in building a house
 - You don't have to be scandal free to have a great legacy. Both the Moabites and Bethlehemites had some strikes against them
 - Ruth - “3 strikes and you are in”
 - You can have barnacles on your boat & still have a happy ending
- A baby is born from this marital union 4:13
 - God is one who gives life/conception. Gen. 29:31; 30:2 1 Sam. 1:5 Ps. 127:3
 - They named the child Obed = to serve slave of God (worshiper)
 - Those who would be great must be slave of all Matt. 20:26-27 Mk 9:35
 - OBEDIENCE obedient servant of God = lasting legacy
 - The lineage through this son Obed produces King David 4:17, 22
 - David known for being a man after God's heart.
 - not scandal free but a legacy that was passed down thru family
- Naomi left her mark on: family, history and eternity
 - Her name means “pleasant” but her life turned bitter “Mara” (1:20)
 - She didn't remove God's presence from her problems. She acknowledged God's hand in all her hardships. Naomi's Law 1:13 1:20 1:21a,b,c
 - Legacy on how to handle tragedy had an impact on her daughter in law and was instrumental in Ruth's conversion. Ruth wanted Naomi's God
 - Naomi honored marriage & raised OBEDIENCE (4:16) to live up to his name

- Ruth - unlikely hero. Poor widow from incestuous nation of Moab – yet legacy
 - Legacy of loyalty and love for her mother-in-law (rare quality) 4:15
 - Legacy of hard work
 - Legacy of being a convert 1:16 2:11-12
 - She chose to convert to the true and living God and embrace godly family
 - Legacy of her lasting lineage
 - King David and King Jesus
- Boaz
 - Godly businessman His faith informed his farming 2:4
 - He did what was right helped the widows and provided for Naomi and Ruth
 - He did right by Ruth and married her when another had rejected her
 - He publicly embraced her and told everyone he would cover her
 - She was in the will and got the inheritance
 - His business dealings and marital dealings were all above board
 - I wonder where Boaz got these good character qualities? (embrace a foreigner...)
 - 4:21 Salmon was his father Matt. 1:5 Rahab was his mother
 - Maybe Salmon was one of the two spies she hid in Jericho
 - Boaz embraced Ruth like his dad had embrace Rahab. Family legacy
 - I'm sure he learned something in his family upbringing
 - Boaz is the redeemer in this story - redeems the outcast - 4:14
 - The legacy of Boaz is - he emulated God....who is The Redeemer
 - 4 generations later Boaz's great great great grandson Solomon built the Temple
 - Two giant bronze pillars and one of them he named "Boaz" 1 Kings 7:21
 - He became famous in Israel 4:14
 - Rev. 3:12 "he who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple...."
- How can we leave a godly legacy?
 - It seems from this story that the basics of life are the real big things of life.
 - Work, Marriage, children, conversion, character, public/private life matching
 - how you deal with tragedy will leave a legacy
 - Remember, we don't have to be scandal free to leave a great legacy
 - Rachel, Judah, Tamar, Rahab, Naomi, David
 - Naomi left the promise land...a wanderer can have a wonderful legacy
 - Ruth had 3 strikes against her but she was it....the line of Christ
- Will you commit this day to strive for things that impact time and eternity?
 - In our denomination
 - If Baptist would be converted and act converted then have credibility
 - In our local church
 - A pillar in our church died last week
 - In your family
 -
 - As an individual
 -
 - Ruth is not a long story, but it is a lasting story. May we have a lasting legacy