



## Pointes to Ponder

The book of Ruth is all about how the sovereignty of God works in and through human decisions and gives us a picture of his glory. As we zoom in to the details of each scene throughout the book, we see the impact that human choice has on all of life. Then as each scene fades back into big-picture mode, you realize that all along God was orchestrating and planning and prodding the cast to accomplish his purpose, namely to providentially create the family line of King David, the ancestor of Jesus the Messiah.

In this drama, one of the more compelling stories in the Old Testament, we get the suspenseful privilege of watching as Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law gains a new perspective on life because Boaz, a potential husband/redeemer for Ruth has arrived on the scene. Nothing until chapter three has gone well for Naomi, mostly due to consequences, but ultimately due to the *hesed* or steadfast faithfulness of God to get them where He wanted them to be. Boaz displays this place wonderfully in his godly character as he is full of favor (grace) and steadfast love and protection for them both.

As Naomi has this change of heart and mind, she wastes no time but embraces the reality that God does not typically act apart from human action. She gives Ruth directions on how to propose to Boaz and to make sure that he knows that she is willing for him to be her kinsman-redeemer. Those instructions are clear and even helpful to us today. We might even go say far as to say that no young woman, no matter how excellent her character (and Ruth's certainly was) will find a good husband if she doesn't bathe, put on some perfume and wear clothes special for the occasion ☺ But mostly, it is a real glimpse of where we need to be when we come to Jesus; humble, grateful and sincere.

But in a shameless ploy to have you join us on Thursday nights at 6:30pm as we study this riveting book in-depth, I'll give you no more details from the account. Yet even from those given, because we all know how the story ends don't we, there are many positive applications we can make today, even besides dating advice to the young and unhitched.

The big one is that God is working. No matter how harsh life may seem He is active. No matter how difficult the consequences of even our sinful actions YHWH is making arrangements, planning plans, setting up encounters of a faithful and favor-ful kind. He was working even when Naomi and her husband left the Land of Promise, and by implication as they left the God Who promised, for a foreign land full of folks who had been permanently barred from entering the assembly of Israel.

However, Naomi has a newfound joy in God and Ruth may have found a husband! What a BUT GOD moment! Those words rang ever so true in Ruth & Naomi's story as they will ring true in yours. So come what may, trust Him. Period. And in the meantime, when His plan has not yet unfolded with clarity, make plans in confident expectation that He is genuinely involved in the details of the here and now. My prayer is that you begin to see those details in a new light and grow to love him all the more.

See you Thursday,  
Pastor Keith