

April Teaching Theme: Easter/The Book of Ruth

讲员 Speaker: Dr. Ted Moon

题目 Topic: Ruth 2

经文 Scripture: Ruth 2

Monthly Theme: We started this month with the beautiful celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, the climax of the Church calendar. We have now transitioned to the season commonly called “Eastertide,” the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost, a time of continual celebration of the Resurrection of King Jesus. We will spend the next 4 Sundays walking through the Old Testament Historical book of Ruth - a powerful story about Loyal-Love, Generosity, Reversal, and Redemption.

四月 **April – 舊約歷史書卷: 路得記 Old Testament Historical Book: Ruth**

April 4th – 復活的故事 The Easter Story (復活節 Easter)

April 11th – 路得記 1: 信心與忠誠 Ruth 1: Faithfulness and Loyalty

April 18th – 路得記 2: 慷慨對待移民 Ruth 2: Generosity to the Immigrant

April 25th – 路得記 3: 救贖主 Ruth 3: The Redeemer

Resources:

[Sermon Video](#)

[Sermon Slides](#)

Ice Breaker: Does anyone remember the super important Hebrew word for the book of Ruth? (If you meet for Ruth 1 material)

Hesed (loving-kindness or loyal love) shows up in some way in every movement of the story. Today we will watch a video focused on the word *Hesed* to better understand before reading chapter 2.

Video:

[Loyal Love \(Hesed\)](#) (5:10) [English - Bible Project]

Chinese Subtitles Available under Settings

Discussion Questions (Pastor William R. Horne):

- (1) Before we read chapter 2, can anyone tell me what has happened so far in the story? (Summarize what happened in chapter 1).
- (2) Read Ruth 2 together. What observations do you make, and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the chapter?
- (3) Thinking about the expanse of meaning associated with *Hesed* (loving-kindness), how is *Hesed* (loving-kindness) modeled here in Ruth 2?
- (4) In Ruth 2, we see *Hesed* (loving-kindness) modeled in protection & generosity to the other. Boaz goes beyond the laws of Israel in his generosity towards and protection for Ruth, the foreigner. In what ways can we practice this type of “protection & generosity” in our own lives? In what ways are we tempted to do the opposite?

- (5) Again, in this chapter of the story, God's providence is lurking in the background. There are two crucial parts of life interacting with each other here: (1) Human Choice & Initiative and (2) God's Providence. Ruth made a choice and took the initiative to go to the fields to get food, and through God's providence, she happened to be "working in a field belonging to Boaz." What does this dynamic of the story tell you about life? Can you think of any times you saw both human choice and God's providence at work in your life?
- (6) Close your time together with further reflection on God's working within your life. Can you describe a time when you knew: (i) God guided you? (ii) God protected you? (iii) God provided for you? (iv) God spoke to you through His word? (Dr. Moon).

Important Notes (Pastor William R. Horne):

Notes on Q2:

New Character: Boaz (from the clan of Elimelek) [Recall, his mother is a Canaanite & Father an Israelite, cross-cultural identity]

Setting: Boaz's fields during the "barley harvest" to the "wheat harvest."

Notice: We are continually reminded throughout the story that Ruth is a Moabite (a foreigner, part of an Israelite enemy).

The setting behind this story may seem kind of odd to us upon our first read. *Why does Ruth just go to a random field to find food?* To answer this question, we must understand that Israel had laws established to take care of "**the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the foreigner in their midst.**" (The "Quartet of the Vulnerable"). One of those laws included leaving a portion of the food of your field for the vulnerable (See Deut 24 below). Boaz, however, goes beyond these laws giving extra food and protection to Ruth.

- "When you are harvesting in your field, and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless, and the widow so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless, and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless, and the widow. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this." (Deuteronomy 24:19-22)
- The "Kinsman Redeemer"(2:20): The "Kinsman Redeemer" (NIV: "guardian-redeemers") is a foreign concept to us. A "Kinsman Redeemer" was the nearest adult male blood relative who served as an advocate for any vulnerable and/or unfortunate clan member to correct any disruption to clan wholeness, well-being, or shalom (primarily through the redemption or restoration of property, persons, or lineage). (Hubbard) There are several duties of the "Kinsman Redeemer" that are too long to list here, but a couple of their responsibilities are essential for the story of Ruth.
 - (i) They were to redeem the wife of the deceased (i.e., acquire legal right) to "raise up the name of the deceased upon his property" by receiving "the

wife of the deceased” (see comments below on the law of the *levirate marriage* in Deut. 25:5–10). This legal act restores clan wholeness.

- (ii) They were to redeem or restore a clan widow facing old age alone without anyone to care for her (Ruth 4:14–15)
- (iii) However, crucial to the understanding of Ruth is the realization that the “Kinsman Redeemer,” while having a responsibility to perform “redemption/restoration,” was not obligated to do so (Younger, K. L., Jr.). It was ultimately their choice. We will see this all play out in the final chapter of the story.

Practice Ideas for Q4:

- Giving of our resources sacrificially (time, money, material things, love, etc.)
- Standing up for the vulnerable, even when it cost us.
- Refusing to participate in gossip or other acts that hurt people.

Thoughts on Q5: Life isn't simply “working hard” or “waiting for it to come to you,” but life is a beautiful, mysterious mix of human choice and God's providence meeting us in our choices. To say that you've “made it on your own” when you find success is a pretty naive and false view of life. So much of life is out of our control, and our “success” is God's providence meeting us in our choices.

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

a上帝如何看顾我们？从地里学到的真理

Dr. Moon四月八日

“拿俄米的丈夫以利米勒的亲族中，有一个人名叫波阿斯，是个大财主。摩押女子路得对拿俄米说：「容我往田间去，我蒙谁的恩，就在谁的身后拾取麦穗。」拿俄米说：「女儿啊，你只管去。」路得翻田，在收割的人身后拾取麦穗。她恰巧到了以利米勒本族的人波阿斯那块田里。波阿斯正从伯利恒来对收割的人说：「愿耶和华与你们同在！」他们回答说：「愿耶和华赐福与你！」波阿斯问监管收割的仆人：「那家的那是女子？」监管收割的仆人回答说：「是那摩押女子，跟随拿俄米从摩押地回来的。她说：容我跟着收割的人拾取打捆剩下的麦穗。」她从早晨直到如今，除了在屋子里坐一会儿，常在这里。」波阿斯对路得说：「女儿啊，听我说，不要往别人田里拾取麦穗，也不要离开这里，要常与我使女们在一处。我的仆人在那块田收割，你就跟着他们去。我已经吩咐仆人不可欺负你；你若渴了，就可以到器皿那里喝仆人打来的水。」路得就俯伏在地拜，对他说：「我既是外邦人，怎么蒙你的恩，这样顾恤我呢？」波阿斯回答说：「自从你丈夫死后，婆婆让你向行的，并你离开父母和本地，到素不认识的民中，这些事人全都告诉了我。愿耶和华照你所行的赏赐你。你来投靠耶和华—以色列神的翅膀下，愿你满得他的赏赐。」路得说：「我主啊，愿在你眼前蒙恩。我虽然不及一个使女，你还用慈爱的话安慰我的心。」到了吃饭的时候，波阿斯对路得说：「你到这里来吃饭，蘸在醋里。」路得就在收割的人旁边坐下；他们把烘了的穗子递给她。她吃饱了，还有余剩的。她起来又拾取麦穗。波阿斯吩咐仆人说：「她就是在捆中拾取麦穗，也可以容她，不可羞辱她；并要从捆里抽出些来，留在地下任她取，不可叱吓她。」”

路得记 2:1-16

一、故事叙述

剩下三寡妇，路德不离开婆婆，跟拿俄米去伯利恒，不确定性很多。人生有很多不确定性，你有吗？在不确定中如何行走？

路得在波阿斯的田里捡麦穗。波阿斯母亲加南人-喇合。神的慈爱的引导着路德也在我们的生命中引导。

二, 从路得和波阿斯中学习

1, 路德与波阿斯的相遇,

波阿斯知道路德的经历。当时以色列人对任何其他的田园里来临的都会被歧视。因为以色列人不喜欢摩押人，因为了解了知摩押人的历史。耶稣也知道我们的历史，但不嫌弃我们，还是帮助我们救我们。路德谢波阿斯。神用慈爱的话语和我们对话。

2, 路得与波阿斯相遇的结果

路德收到指示。在波阿斯的田地捡，他知道路德需要。神也知道我们的需要，和神紧跟，在神的田地捡到麦穗，得神的保护，象拿俄米一样。让我们不要在其他田里找到满足。拿俄米也在田地找到供应，拿俄米得水喝。我们在神的田园中得祝福，我们是不是向神献上感谢，不忘福的来源，数算神的恩典。

3, 路得得神的赞扬，

2:11-12 "波阿斯 回答说：「自从你丈夫死后，凡你向婆婆所行的，并你离开父母和本地，到素不认识的这些人，这些事全都告诉了我。愿耶和华照你所行的赏赐你。你来投靠耶和华—以色列神的翅膀下，愿你满得他的赏赐。」"

路得记 2:11-12

我们生活中也同样，神对我们的称赞，太10：42 "无论何人，因为门徒的名，只把一杯凉水给这小子里的一个，我实在告诉你们，这人不能不得赏赐。]"

太25, "主人说：『好，你这又良善又忠心的仆人，你在不多的事上有忠心，我要把许多事派你管理；可以进来你主人的快乐。』"

马太福音 25:21

4, 路德受到了邀请

波阿斯请路德吃饭

当没人关心我们，耶稣关心，耶稣邀请每人进入祂里面。

5, 预备：

2:14b "到了吃饭的时候，波阿斯对路得说：「你到这里来吃饼，将饼蘸在醋里。」路得就在他旁边坐下；他们把烘了的穗子递给她。她吃饱了，还有余剩的。"

路得记 2:14

路德得到波阿斯的家人的待遇，多少时我们给予多余的来帮助。应该献给神国最好的。不是给神的仆人旧家具。

6, 满足，

路德离开波阿斯时得饱足，2：15-16。"她起来又拾取麦穗，波阿斯吩咐仆人说：「她就是在捆麦穗取也可以容她，不可羞辱她；并要从捆里抽出些来，留在地下任她拾取，不可叱吓她。」"

路得记 2:15-16

路德得麦穗，耶稣也是如此，可以让我们得满足。

〈天父必看顾你〉赞美诗结束。

How does God take care of us?

Dr.Moon

Ruth 2:1-16

Elimelek had 2 sons, lived in Bethlehem. When hit by famine, they left to Moab to look for food. Moabites worshiped idols. After Elimelek died, 2 sons grew up and married local women... Ruth went with Naomi, because Naomi's God was her God.

She faced fear and uncertainty when moved to the foreign land. Even she didn't aware of but God had at work for her. They arrived at the harvest time, so Ruth, being poor, went to field to pick leftover grains. "As it turned out" she went to work at Boaz's field, a kinsman of Elimelek, she didn't know that Boaz's mom was a foreigner as well, Rehab,

A good picture of God's kindness and grace revealed

Consider Ruth's encounter with Boaz

Boaz knew her history: a Moabite woman came back w Naomi. She asked for permission; she worked whole day

In Israel's history, Moabite refused to let Israelites pass their land,

They defeated Israelites

Hatred of Moabites among the Israelites

Yet Boaz knew the law (the poor was allowed to pick up leftover grains from the field), even though the not required by the law to show her any kindness

Jesus knows who we are, yet still show favor to us: while we are still sinners Christ died for us romans5:8

Boaz knew Ruth's heart

Knew Ruth cared for Naomi. May God richly reward you

Ruth thanked his kindness, although I didn't deserve it, you treat me like your own

Do we all desire to be treated kindly?

Zephaniah 3:17 God delighted in you,

The result of Ruth's encounter with Boaz

Ruth received instructions: watch the field where the his men harvest, follow along the women

He knew what was best for Ruth. We too received instructions from God, fix our eyes at Jesus. We will benefit by following closely to God's instructions

Ruth received protection

No man could lay hands on her, as long as she followed in Boaz's field, she was safe

Same for us, we will be safe under God's umbrella, let's not seek happiness and satisfaction beyond god

Ruth received provisions

Normally women needed to get their own water, yet a foreigner, a woman, she was allowed to drink the water with the man servants

Think of what Jesus has done, all the goodness and provision, where could we be if not in his provision

"When drinking water, remember the source "

Ruth was honored

May the god reward you for what you've done. Boaz was aware of Ruth's kindness and loyalty.

Remind us what Jesus's said Matthew 10:42,

25:21 good faithful servant

How Ruth was honored

Have some bread, dip it in the wine,

Invitation, to eat at the host's table, even though foreign woman,

"Come and dine the master calleth come and dine, you may feast at Jesus table all the time..."

Ruth accepted the invitation

So accept Jesus's invitation!

She ate roasted grain, of his meal

Not leftover, but food prepared for Boaz and his men

Jesus invites us to his table. Very best he offers

Not leftover

Missionary got the new refrigerator 😊

The satisfaction

Ate all she wanted, had leftover

Boaz asked the men to respect her, even pull some grains out of the bundle for her

She got home 13 kilos of grain

Jesus can fill your heart with satisfaction, hope,

God's invitation:

His provision

His protection

"God will take care of You" responding hymn

Through every day, over all the way