

## **April-May Teaching Theme:** Easter/The Book of Ruth/Pentecost

讲员 Speaker: Pastor William R. Horne

题目 Topic: Ruth 4: Reversal, Restoration, Resurrection

经文 Scripture: Ruth 4

**Monthly Theme:** We started last 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 (May 23rd, 2021), a time of continual celebration of the Resurrection of King Jesus. We have spent the next 4 Sundays walking through the Old Testament Historical book of Ruth - a powerful story about Loyal-Love, Generosity, Reversal, and Redemption. We finished up the book of Ruth this week and will continue in the theme of Pentecost during May.

### **五月 May: 五旬節季節 Pentecost Season**

May 2nd – 路得記 4: 扭轉乾坤的君王寶血 Ruth 4: Reversal, Restoration, Resurrection

May 9th – 突破障礙的聖靈 The Spirit Breaking Barriers [萬國教會 Church of All People] (使徒行傳 Acts 10)

May 16th – 上主升天 Ascension of the Lord (使徒行傳 Acts 1:1-11, 詩篇 Psalm 47)

May 23rd – 五旬節 Pentecost (利未記 Leviticus 23:15-21, 使徒行傳 Acts 2) (五旬節 Pentecost)

May 30th – 重生 Born Again (約翰福音 John 3:1-21)

### **Resources:**

[Sermon Video](#)

[Sermon Slides](#)

**Primary Claim:** “God is Working, through Human Loyal-Love, to Bring About His Upside-Down Kingdom.”

### **Video:**

[The Book of Ruth](#) (Bible Project) [English - 7:11]

[The Book of Ruth](#) (Bible Project) [Mandarin - 6:29]

\*\*We watched this video when we started the book of Ruth, but it might be helpful to watch again to review the whole book.\*\*

### **Discussion Questions** (Pastor William R. Horne):

- (1) Before we read chapter 4, can anyone tell me what has happened so far in the story? (Summarize what happened in chapters 1-3).
- (2) Read Ruth 4 together. What observations do you make, and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the chapter?
- (3) Behind every scene in the story of Ruth, we can see God working in the background, meeting his people in their choices to bring about his purposes. How does this reality - that God is working in everyday life - make you feel? Reflecting on your life, where have you seen God working in your life?

- (4) How do we see *Hesed* (loyal-love/loving-kindness) modeled in Ruth 4? What are some ways we live with this type of loyal love towards others?
- (5) As we have seen in the story of Ruth (and the whole Bible!), God often chooses the weak and powerless to reveal his rule. What does this reality call us to, and what hope does it give us?

**Important Notes** (Pastor William R. Horne):

Notes on Q3: We should be careful not to over-simplify this reality with statements like 'God is in control' or over-explain this reality trying to work out every detail. We should affirm God's sovereignty and Humanity's freedom while allowing the mystery of their relationship to remain. As the narrator portrays, there is a beautiful mystery behind every scene - God's providence meets us in our everyday choices. God is like the ultimate chess player who can see every possible move each human player can make and responds accordingly to bring about his purposes.

Two examples in Ruth:

- In chapter 2, Ruth chooses to go find food in the fields and "just so happens" to end up in the field of Boaz.
- In chapter 4, we saw today, that Boaz goes to the town gate and the closer kinsman "just so happens" to come to the gate at the same time.

God is building his grand story out of the small, seemingly insignificant realities of everyday people. We can confidently trust in the God who is working in our daily lives to bring about his greater purposes. This story puts flesh on the often quoted Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Notes on Q4:

In chapter 1, we see this "loyal-love" modeled in Ruth's loyalty & commitment to Naomi, despite what it will cost her.

In chapter 2, we see "loyal-love" modeled in Boaz's generosity & protection towards Ruth.

In chapter 3, we see "loyal-love" modeled in Ruth's risk-taking on behalf of Naomi and in Boaz's integrity in the marriage proposal.

In chapter 4, we see Boaz modeling "loyal love" in his choosing to sacrifice his estate for the well-being of Ruth, Naomi, and the family of Elimelek.

Loyal love (*Hesed*) calls us to, as Paul writes, "**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**" (Phil 2:3-4). We see this ultimately modeled in Jesus, who gives up his life on our behalf. (The Gospel in Ruth! :) )

Notes on Q5: God loves to choose the vulnerable and marginalized to bring about this Upside-Down Kingdom. In the story of Ruth, we see God using the vulnerable foreign widow,

Ruth, to bring about the line of King Jesus. We can confidently put our hope in our God, who will bring about his Kingdom, who will return and make all things right - even when there is chaos all around us. This reality also calls us to be people who stand and advocate for the vulnerable in our context. We see God choosing the weak all over the Biblical story! We will see more of this reality in the “Sermon on Mount” we will begin looking at next month.

As we reflect on our stories, many of us probably resonate with Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 1, **“Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”**

We also can reflect upon the Psalmist words in Psalm 8, where God sets his glory in the heavens through the praises of “babbling babies” (a symbol of humanity’s weakness). This reality is quite profound! God chooses to use us, weak creatures made of dirt, for his glory! We can experience the fullness of this reality in the transformed life Jesus offers us through the Spirit (The Gospel in Ruth again! :))

**Sermon Summary** (Elder Yin): [Elder Yin has also added in his summary excellent reflection questions to help as you lead :)]

逆转，救赎，复活  
Pastor Will 5 / 2 / 21

“波阿斯到了城门，坐在那里，恰巧波阿斯所说的那至近的亲属经过。波阿斯说：「某人哪，你来坐在这里。」他就来坐下。波阿斯又从本城的长老中拣选了十人，对他们说：「请你们坐在这里。」他们就都坐下。波阿斯对那至近的亲属说：「从摩押地回来的拿俄米，现在要卖我们族兄以利米勒的那块地；我想当赎那块地的是你，其次是我，以外再没有别人了。你可以在这里的人面前和我本国的长老面前说明，你若肯赎就赎，若不肯赎就告诉我。」那人回答说：「我肯赎。」波阿斯说：「你从拿俄米手中买这地的时候，也当娶死人的妻摩押女子路得，使死人在产业上存留他的名。」那人说：「这样我就不能赎了，恐怕于我的产业有碍。你可以赎我所当赎的，我不能赎了。」从前，在以色列中要定夺什么事，或赎回，或交易，这人就脱鞋给那人。以色列人都以此为证据。那人对波阿斯说：「你自己买吧！」于是将鞋脱下来了。波阿斯对长老和众民说：「你们今日作见证，凡属以利米勒和基连、玛伦的，我都从拿俄米手中置买了；又娶了玛伦的妻摩押女子路得为妻，好在死人的产业上存留他的名，免得他的名在本族本乡灭没。你们今日可以作见证。」在城门坐着的众民和长老都说：「我们作见证。愿耶和华使进你家的这女子，像建立以色列家的拉结、利亚二人一样。又愿你在以法他得亨通，在伯利恒得名声。愿耶和华从这少年女子赐你后裔，使你的家像她玛从犹大所生法勒斯的家一般。」于是，波阿斯娶了路得为妻，与她同房。耶和华使她怀孕生了一个儿子。妇人们对拿俄米说：「耶和华是应当称颂的！因为今日没有撇下你，使你无至近的亲属。愿这孩子以色列中得名声。他必提起你的精神，奉养你的老，因为是爱慕你的那儿媳所生的。有这儿媳比有七个儿子还好！」

邻舍的妇人说：「拿俄米得孩子了！」就给孩子起名叫俄备得。这俄备得是耶西的父，耶西是大卫的父。法勒斯的后代记在下面：法勒斯生希斯仑；希斯仑生兰；兰生亚米拿达；亚米拿达生拿顺；拿顺生撒门；撒门生波阿斯；波阿斯生俄备得；俄备得生耶西；耶西生大卫。”

路得记 4:1-15, 17-22 CUNPSS-神

<https://bible.com/48/rut.4.1-15,17-22.cunpss-神>

神通过人类做翻转的工作，

大纲

一，回顾故事：

拿俄米，路得，波阿斯的故事，大家应该很熟了，可以查圣经如果有需要。

寡妇是当时社会最惨的。拿俄米二手空空回家乡。路得更惨，因为是摩押人（以色列的敌人）跟婆婆回以色列。看上去是没有指望的人。波阿斯是以色列的农场主。是慷慨的远亲，愿意赎回路德的家属。

二，逆转，救赎，复活

波阿斯找到了和路得更近的亲戚，波阿斯请十位长老做见证，来赎回以利米勒当初穷困潦倒时卖的这块地。那和路得更近的亲戚，圣经中没有提他的名字，他愿意买这块地。按照利未记“你的弟兄若渐渐穷乏，卖了几分地业，他至近的亲属就要来把弟兄所卖的赎回。”

利未记 25:25

但当波阿斯提起按例法需赎地赎人一起的时候，那亲戚却甚是不愿意。当时拿俄米和路得是一无所有，潦倒穷困。这亲戚不尽责。也许亲戚是为自己的利益权衡。按照当时的律法，这块地如果没人赎回，将来自然而然的也是那亲戚的。但赎人却不那么简单了。赎一无所有的人，实属不易。再加上赎路得后还有婆婆，将来的名份也成了以利米勒的家属。

似乎象我们许多人，我们口中说爱神，爱人如己，但在自己利益受威胁时就会退束了，这亲戚虽知道拿俄米困境，但不原意帮助，因为付出也许会损害自己的利益。

我们是不是有这种经历，是如何克服的？（笔者）

不尽责任有后果。也许这亲戚的名字在圣经中没有记载是对他没有履行责则的一种惩罚。如果我们因自己的利益而不施与怜悯之心，伸出援助之手，我们的名字是否会在生命册上？（笔者）。

波阿斯却不象那近亲，他有怜悯的心。他愿意牺牲自己的利益也帮助二位寡妇。如果没有波阿斯忠贞的爱，拿俄米家属的名就不能延续。他要长老们做见证，来赎地赎人。结果是得赏赐。

从长老中得三个祝福：

- 1, 耶和華使進你家的這女子，像建立以色列家的拉結、利亞二人一樣。
- 2, 又願你在以法他得亨通，在伯利恒得名聲。
- 3, 願耶和華從這少年女子賜你後裔，使你的家像她瑪從猶大所生法勒斯的家一般。

因此拿俄米也得祝福：

婦人們對拿俄米說：「耶和華是應當稱頌的！因為今日沒有撇下你，使你無至近的親屬。願這孩子在以色列中得名聲。他必提起你的精神，奉養你的老，因為是愛慕你的那兒婦所生的。有這兒婦比有七個兒子還好！

上帝的旨意使拿俄米的愿望实现。上帝的救赎也在这贫穷的寡妇身上成全。

波阿斯和路得生俄备得，俄备得生耶西，耶西生大卫。神会成全救赎计划，通过拿俄米，经过人对神的忠心，作出人忠贞的选择。

### 三, 应用

1, 神在日常生活中动工，虽然神的名没有被提及。神象最出色的象棋手，预知每一步如何选择，计划，详细的过程。只管信靠祂。

你是否在你人生中信靠祂？举例？（笔者）

神的主权和人的选择一起动工。波阿斯和亲戚突然在城门当见，似乎很多巧合。

我们生命中是否也有很多我们认为巧合的好事发生？是不是也是神在今天我们每人生命中的动工？（笔者）。

神也会用反面角色为祂所用，象亲戚。神完成祂的计划通过人的忠心。

2, 忠贞（盟约）之爱〈Hesed-忠诚和委身〉路德委身与拿俄米（第一章），波阿斯慷慨与保护（第二章），路德和波阿斯冒险与正直（第三章），波阿斯的利他人过于利自己（第四章）。

3, 带来翻转的国度。神的忠心从在翻转世界。路得记结束时见到大卫王的家谱。神的信实成为弥撒亚的出现成为可能。用弱女子路德来表现出神的大能来翻转世界，用波阿斯这非正统以色列人-母亲是喇合来成全神的拯救计划。马太福音家谱列了拉合和路德成为主要的神国名单，来翻转这个世界。

你是否也觉得很软弱，八福中，觉得软弱的人有福了，因为他或她依靠神。请分享你的见证。（笔者）