

**Subject: *A Wedding and a Baby in Bethlehem***

**Scripture: *Ruth 4:9-14***

This is a marvelous story of redemption that takes place mainly in Bethlehem. God recorded the story in four chapters (a total of 85 verses). It is a true story that covers a period of 11-12 years. Let's review the story beginning with the main characters:

### **RUTH...**

- Lived during the time of Judges (Ruth 1:1) – about 1300-1000 B.C.
- Her name means “friendship” – She was a true friend to Naomi, her mother-in-law.
- Is one of two books in the Bible named after women – Esther was a Jew who married a Gentile. Ruth was a Gentile who married a Jew.
- Is not mentioned anywhere else in the Old Testament
- Is mentioned only once in the New Testament (Matt. 1:5)
- Was a Moabite woman (Ruth 1:4) – The Moabites constantly hated and fought with Israel. As a people the Moabites came from Lot when he committed incest with his daughter (Gen. 19:37). Hundreds of years later Balak, king of Moab, hired Balaam the false prophet to curse Israel (Num. 22-25). The Moabites oppressed Israel for 18 years during the time of the judges (Jdg. 3:14).
- Committed her life to God (Ruth 1:16) – This was the turning point in her life.
- Was a poor widow trying to survive (2:2) – When you live for God it doesn't eliminate all your problems, just your biggest problem (sin and death).
- Is an example of how God guides and provides – she went from a foreign land to a field and then she met a fellow

### **BOAZ...**

- Was a mighty man of wealth (Ruth 2:1)
- Lived in Bethlehem – Mary and Joseph may have walked through the field or the gate mentioned in the story.
- Saw and loved Ruth before she saw and loved him
- Provided for Ruth even before she belonged to him
- Was related to Ruth – The most important part of the story (Deut. 25:5-10)

- Was willing to redeem Ruth – *2 Corinthians 8:9* For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.
- Paid the price to redeem Ruth – *1 Corinthians 6:20* For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. *1 Peter 1:18-19* Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
- Took Ruth as his wife – When Jesus redeems us we don't get a set of rules and regulations. We get a relationship with a wonderful Lord and Savior. When you get married, you don't get the marriage vows. You get a wife or husband.
- Had a name that was honored forever  
*Philippians 2:5-10* Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.

### **GREAT LESSONS FROM THIS LOVE STORY:**

- God's grace includes Gentiles as well as Jews
- God's grace includes women as well as men
- God takes care of us in unexpected ways
- God cares for and uses ordinary people – *1 Corinthians 1:26* For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.
- God gives us more than we deserve or expect – She went from widowhood to motherhood and from poverty to plenty. By God's grace Ruth was in the family line of Christ. Ruth is listed in the genealogy of Christ along with three other women—Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba (Matt. 1). All of these women are trophies of God's grace. They were all greatly blessed in spite of their sinful background.
- Christ is our great Kinsman-Redeemer – He was related to us, able to redeem us, and willing to redeem us.