

The Rest of the Story Ruth 4:13-22

The BIG Idea ... For the child of God, the _____ of the story is better than we could ever _____ . Ephesians 3:20 ...

A Wedding

- In a single _____, God is able to solve a problem that's taken 3 ½ _____ to unpack! Jeremiah 32:17 ...
- Although Ruth gets a _____, Naomi needs a _____ to carry on the family name. If God doesn't step in, the family line will stop dead in its tracks.

A Baby

- Verse 13, "... And the LORD _____ her conception."
- Psalm 139 tells us that God personally knits that little life together in the mother's womb.
- Life begins at conception because the Author of Life is the _____ of that conception.
- Every life has meaning and purpose at conception. Applications: Isaiah 55:9 ... Psalm 18:30 ...

A Reversal

- God has transformed Naomi's bitterness into _____, and her despair into _____.
- Just like in Chapter 1, the spotlight is on _____.
- The women of Bethlehem say, "Grandma Naomi, 'Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer'" (they are not referring to _____, but to the _____).
- "God has met all your needs through your daughter-in-law, who loves you. She is more to you than _____ . Through her, God has filled your empty hands and your empty heart with more than you could've ever imagined, in ways that you could've never dreamed, through a girl you would've never expected."

Application: God specializes in using the most unexpected _____ in the most unexpected _____, so even when you're hurting like Naomi was back in chapter 1, don't run _____ community; run _____ community.

- God has met her need for _____—through the barley from Boaz's field.
- God has met her need for a _____—through Boaz's marriage to Ruth.
- God has met her need for a _____—through a grandson who will sustain the family line.
- In verse 16, we read that "Naomi became the baby's nurse." Every moment Naomi spends with Obed will be a _____ that the end of the story is better than she could've ever imagined.

The Rest of the Story

- Ruth and Naomi's story gets even better after they are _____.
- In verses 18-22, not only do we discover that God was writing their story long before they ever arrived on scene. We also discover that their story will continue through _____, who will be the father of Jesse, and Jesse will be father to King David!
- From the unlikeliest of people—a Moabite girl; in the unlikeliest of places—in little Bethlehem; through the unlikeliest of circumstances—like famine and death, a _____ is born. Not just a baby named Obed; a baby named _____—who, according to Matthew 1 and Luke 3, is a descendant of King David.

The Takeaway: God has already _____ the end of your story, and it's _____ than you could ever imagine. So, when you find yourself stuck in Chapter 1, _____ Him. _____ on Him. And _____ in Him, because there is coming a day when you'll forever be living in Chapter 4 (2 Corinthians 4:17). There is coming a day when all good things will _____ come to an end. Revelation 21:3-5 ...