

Redemption and Motherhood

Mother's Day 2014

Genesis 3:16 *To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."* (ESV)

John 16:21 *When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.* (ESV)

JOY AND PAIN

- The joy of motherhood is a creation blessing. The pain of motherhood is the result of sin. Both are a reality in this present world.
- The pain of motherhood encompasses the whole relationship.
- Generally speaking, the joy overshadows the pain.
- Redemption will come through a Savior born of a woman.



NAOMI AND RUTH

The story of Naomi and Ruth beautifully demonstrates this joy and pain.

- Elimelech and Naomi sought to preserve their family by escaping God's judgment, fleeing to Moab.
 - *Tragedy awaited in Moab as Naomi's husband and sons died.*
 - *Her sons had married but had no children.*
 - *Naomi was left destitute.*
- Naomi decided to return home.
 - *Her daughter-in-laws wanted to go with her to Bethlehem.*
 - *She persuaded Orpah to return but Ruth would not go.*
- Naomi failed to recognize God's redemption in Ruth.
- Upon returning, Naomi complained about her bitter lot although she knew God was just.
 - *She rejected the name Naomi for it means "pleasantness."*
 - *She wanted to be called "mara: which means "bitter."*
- Boaz, redeemed Naomi's property, married Ruth and provided a grandson to carry on the name.
- God restored the joy of motherhood Naomi had lost in exile.

Ruth 1:16-18 *But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."* ¹⁸ *And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.* (ESV)

Ruth 1:19-2:1 *So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?"* ²⁰ *She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"* ²² *So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest. ²¹ Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.* (ESV)

Ruth 4:13-17 *So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel!" ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."* ¹⁶ *Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.* (ESV)