SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Redeemed
RUTH 4:1-22

When situations seem hopeless or salvation seems impossible,
it is merely the setting for God to write a redeeming story.

1. REVIEW

How would you describe the story arc of the book of Ruth up to this point?

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Read Ruth 4 aloud. What is the narrative tension in these verses and how is it resolved? What does this story teach us about the character of God and his plan?

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What have you observed about the HESED of God and his redemptive plan through our study of Ruth?

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2. ASSESS

Spend a few moments looking for the HESED of God in your life. Where do you see it? Where do you still long for redemption?

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Some of us are still looking for that redemptive story and forward movement in our lives. If that's you, what do you think you should do to partner with God in it? Consider the following as starting points or add your own using the blanks below.

ASK: Is this what God wants for me or do I just want this for myself?

PERSISTENTLY PRAY: Your passion and persistence are revealing your urgency. What are they revealing?

REVIEW the chart from the message on Ruth 2: Do you need to *return + repent*, *remember*, or *repair*?

SURRENDER: Have you chosen to trust that the Lord sees it and is in control?

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3. APPLY

What posture shaping activities will you commit to for the sake of sustained surrender? How is your current discipline in those rhythms?

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1. A hopeless situation is merely a setting for God's redeeming story

2. When salvation seems impossible, it's an opportunity for God to show he is mighty to save.

Discussion #1: What are you learning about God's hesed? Where are you seeing the hesed of God in your life?

Discussion #2: When is a time you have seen God completely turn something around, bring hope from hopelessness, etc? Where are you praying for God to write a redemption story in your life?

Discussion #3: Who is far from God you are praying for the Lord to save?

We began this series in Ruth not in Ruth chapter 1 but rather in Matthew chapter 1. This first chapter of the New Testament highlights for us the genealogy leading to Jesus. As Matthew lays out this genealogy, let's just say there are some "interesting" events in the line of the Christ. God worked his redeeming power and showed he is mighty to save in weaving together broken parts into one grand, beautiful redemptive story.

We have seen up close these four weeks God's beautiful folding in of Ruth the Moabitess into this grand redemptive story. Let's take some time to study and rejoice in how God worked in the midst of some other difficult circumstances to preserve, perpetuate, and protect the line of Christ. We will take our cues for this study from Matthew's genealogy. As you study these other interesting events, rejoice in how God is able to save from what looks impossible to save and to redeem what seems to be unredeemable. The goal in reading these is not to rejoice in the sin we will see in some of these stories, but rather to rejoice in God's ability to work a redemptive end from any story that looks unredeemable.

• Tamar is the first woman mentioned in Matthew's genealogy. She fathered Perez who we see mentioned in Ruth. Go read Genesis 38. • Rahab is the next woman mentioned in the genealogy. Read Joshua 2 and Joshua 6:22-25 • The wife of Uriah, Bathsheba, is referenced. Read 2 Samuel 11 • Finally, Joseph the husband of Mary is mentioned. Read Matthew 1:18-25.

There is no situation too far gone and no person too sinful for God to not work a beautiful redemptive end out of. We need look no further than Jesus' own line to see this.

DAY 1
Psalm 63
What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?

DAY 2
Titus 3
What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?

DAY 3
Psalm 17
What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?

DAY 4
Nehemiah 9:9-17
What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?

DAY 5
Psalm 36
What does it say?
What does it mean?
How should I respond?