

EVERYDAY FAITH: "The Original Cinderella"

INTRODUCTION

- **Key Idea:** God uses **ordinary people** who express **everyday faith** and God will do marvelous things through them.
- The book of Ruth is a **tragic story** (famine, loss, grief, bad decisions) but also a **triumphant story** that brings encouragement to our faith (Romans 15:4).

THE AUTHOR

- **Samuel** is a good possibility because he is the one who anoints David to be the true king of Israel. The book of Ruth is concerned with the **genealogy of David** (Ruth 4:18-22).

THE AUDIENCE

- The events take place in the period of the judges (Ruth 1:1), when "everyone did what was right in their own eyes." (Judges 21:25)
- Seeing that the book of Ruth is concerned with the **genealogy of David** (Ruth 4:18-22), it is the historic justification for the anointing of David.

THE ARRANGEMENT

Warren Wiersbe's Outline:

1. The **WEeping** (Chapter 1) – tears and loss as Naomi grieves over the loss of two sons.
2. The **WORKing** (Chapter 2) – Ruth tries to take care of her mother-in-law.
3. The **WAITing** (Chapter 3) – Perhaps Boaz will serve as a kinsman redeemer to Ruth.
4. The **WEDDing** (Chapter 4) – Boaz falls in love with Ruth and they have a son.

THE APPLICATIONS

1. **No person is outside the reach of God's grace.**
 - The book of Ruth is the story of inclusion of a Moabite woman into the people of God.
 - When you get to the genealogy of Jesus Christ, **Ruth** is in it, **Rahab** is in it, **Tamar** is in it.
2. **We can live godly lives among the godless.**
 - The period of the Judges was a godless time, a time of "moral apathy, theological apostasy, political anarchy."
 - Ruth emerges in a quiet corner in the kingdom of Israel and shows covenant love to her mother-in-law.
3. **There is no coincidence, only providence.**
 - There is a hidden hand at work, and a sovereign plan that is unfolding.
 - There is no big divine flashbang in the book of Ruth, but each of their actions and reactions accumulate to something quite astounding in the providence of God.
4. **God blesses and uses everyday faith.**

This is not a big story as the conquest of Canaan by Joshua. There is nothing here about the walls falling down in Jericho or the sun standing still. It's just a daughter-in-law deciding to be loyal.

Sermon Application Questions

May 10, 2020

PERSONAL RESPONSES

Pastor Philip said this about the book of Ruth:

1 “There’s no divine flashbangs in the book of Ruth. There’s no divine appearances. There’s no epiphanies, there’s no miracles, there’s no voices from heaven. There’s no clear history-making events. There’s no revival from God sent down from heaven. **This is a human story by very ordinary people: no kings, no priests, no mighty warriors.**”

Think through the implications of this statement for your life. Do you ever get discouraged that God has called you to be an “ordinary” Christian? Do you ever find yourself longing for the “spectacular” experiences that were at times experienced by certain people in Scripture?

How does the book of Ruth encourage you in your “ordinary”, daily walk with Christ?

Pastor Philip noted that the book of Ruth is one of two books named after a woman in the Bible (Ruth and Esther).

The Bible is filled with stories of great women of faith who walked with the Lord and glorified Him.

2 These are women like Sarah, Hannah, Rahab, Mary and Ruth.

Who are the women of faith in your life who have been examples to you and have impacted your life for the sake of Christ?

Perhaps name some specific lessons that you have learned from these women and take a moment to give God thanks for them.

DIGGING DEEPER

1 Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week’s sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Ruth 1:1

In those days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

Ruth 4:18-22

Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nashon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

Matthew 1:17

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The MacArthur Study Bible notes the following parallels between the example of Ruth and the Proverbs 31 woman. Each woman was:

1. Devoted to her family (Ruth 1:15-18 | Proverbs 31:10-12, 23)
2. Delighting in her work (Ruth 2:2 | Proverbs 31:13)
3. Diligent in her labor (Ruth 2:7, 17, 23 | Proverbs 31:14-18, 19-21, 24, 27)
4. Dedicated to godly speech (Ruth 2:10, 13 | Proverbs 31:26)
5. Dependent on God (Ruth 2:12 | Proverbs 31:25, 30)
6. Dressed with care (Ruth 3:3 | Proverbs 31:22, 25)
7. Discreet with men (Ruth 3:6-13 | Proverbs 31:11, 12, 23)
8. Delivering blessings (Ruth 4:14, 15 | Proverbs 31:28-31)

Of these eight character qualities, what is **one godly characteristic** that the Lord would have you pay attention to this week?

What are some **specific ways** (practical and measurable) that you can express this quality in your life this week?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Pastor Philip gave us **four applications** from the book of Ruth that are meant to be an encouragement to our faith:

1. **No one is beyond the reach of God's grace.**
2. **We can live godly lives among the godless.**
3. **There is no coincidence, only providence.**
4. **God blesses and uses everyday faith.**

Take a moment and reflect on these applications to our lives. Were there any applications that especially encouraged you in your faith? Write out a summary and share with others.

Reflect on the closing words of the sermon: "Miracles are not normal. God can do them, but they're not normal. I'll tell you what's normal – Normal. Everyday faith, raising your kids, 8-5 at the factory, ducking into church and having a Bible Study with believers. Playing a game of ball in your backyard with your kid, talking to your neighbor. It doesn't need to be a string of miracles. Just quiet faithfulness. God will use it. You don't know where that story ends."

Perhaps pray a simple prayer that the Lord will bless your "ordinary and quiet faithfulness" this week.