

# Risk and Reward| Ruth Week 4

## Read: Ruth Chapter 4

If we aren't careful, we can start putting the book of Ruth into the same category as a Hallmark movie and view it only through the lens of, "aww how cute, there's the happy ending." But if we slow down for a moment, we have to ask, why is the book of Ruth included in God's story?

Was it only to amplify the lineage of Jesus? Or is there something about this particular story that reveals something deeper about God, who He is, and what actually matters for us today?

At its core, Ruth is a story of redemption. The kind that restores what was lost, rewrites what felt finished, and brings fullness where there was once emptiness. But if we stop there, we miss something important because Ruth 4 doesn't just show us that redemption happens.

It shows us what it costs.

And that's where the story shifts from something we admire... to something that starts to press on how we live.

## Day 1 | Redemption Will Cost You Something

There's a moment in this chapter that's easy to read.

There's another guy - another kinsman redeemer is presented with the opportunity first. At first, he's in. The land sounds good. It looks like gain. But as soon as the full picture becomes clear what redeeming will actually require he steps back.

He doesn't walk away because he's a bad man. He walks away because redemption will cost him something he doesn't want to give.

It would affect his inheritance and his future and require responsibility as a redeemer that he didn't plan for.

What looked like opportunity starts to look like sacrifice.

Sound familiar?

So often we like the idea of following God... until it costs us something we weren't planning on. Until obedience requires us to give up control, comfort, or the outcome we had in mind.

Boaz sees the same cost.

And still steps forward.

Not because he knows how it will all work out, but because he knows what is right in front of him to do.

That's where our purpose lives.

Not in knowing how everything plays out...but in being willing to step into something bigger than what we personally gain.

Throughout Scripture, this is the pattern:

Abraham leaves without knowing where he's going (**Genesis 12**)

The disciples follow without knowing what it will cost (**Matthew 4**)

Jesus goes to the cross knowing exactly what it will cost (**Hebrews 12:2**)

Redemption always costs something. It's almost as if that's part of God's design.

**Reflect:**

- Where might God be inviting you to step into something that feels costly?
- Are you waiting for clarity before you move... or willing to take the next faithful step?

## **Day 2 | Redemption Is Often for Someone Else**

There's another detail here that shifts the entire story if you let it. We call this the story of Ruth.

But listen to how it ends.

The women say,

**“Naomi has a son.”**

Naomi.

The one who said, “Call me bitter and believed she came back empty. Yet, the story ends pinpointing to Naomi. Which means Ruth's faithfulness wasn't just about her future, it became the pathway for someone else's restoration.

And that reframes how we think about our own lives.

Because we naturally ask:

What is God doing for me? What is He building in my life? If I take the RISK - it should most definitely be MY reward, right?

But the Christian life has always been outward-facing.

Ruth risks it all for Naomi.

Boaz steps in not just for Ruth, but for Naomi's family.

And Jesus says,

**“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...” (Matthew 20:28)**

Paul writes,

**“Carry each other’s burdens...” (Galatians 6:2)**

Redemption flows through people. Which means this story asks something deeper:

Who in your life is Naomi?

Who feels empty... stuck... overlooked... unsure how their story moves forward?

And are you willing to risk something not just for your future... but for theirs?

**Reflect:**

- Who in your life might be in need of encouragement, restoration, or invitation?
- Where is God inviting you to shift your focus from yourself to someone else?

## **Day 3 | There Are No Small Parts in God’s Story**

At the end of Ruth, the story suddenly zooms out.

Obed.

Jesse.

David.

And you realize... this was never just about them.

The woman gleaning in a field or the man sitting at the gate. Ordinary people living their ordinary lives making too them, their decision to thrive

Yet each decision eventually become a lineage that leads to a King...and the ultimate redemption story. Yours and Mine.

And no one in the story knew that at the time.

That’s what makes this so powerful. There are no small parts in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus tells us.

**“Go and make disciples...” (Matthew 28:19)**

Not because every moment will feel significant...but because none of them are small.

God breaks chains and rewrites family stories through people who are simply willing to say yes in the moment they're in. Through decisions that feel ordinary as we look ahead to notice those around us and to do our next 'right' thing. Where we are sometimes praying for the miracle without realizing that maybe to some person, at some time, we are the miracle God wants to move through.

**Reflect:**

- Where might you be underestimating the impact of your obedience?
- What if the step in front of you is part of a story God is writing beyond your lifetime? How does that change your day to day?

## **Closing Reflection**

When we step into the kind of life that reflects God's heart, it will cost us something. It will often be for someone else. And it will almost always be part of something bigger than we can see.

And maybe the question this chapter leaves us with isn't just whether God is able to redeem.

It's whether we are willing to live the kind of life where that redemption can move through us.