



RUTH TO DAVID TO CHRIST

Ruth 1:1–5; 4:18–22

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Judges 21:25 | Genesis 12:5–9 | 2 Samuel 7:8–29

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 6.2.24

SUMMARY

The first words of the book of Ruth immediately provide important context from another book of the Bible—the book of Judges. Ruth opens, “In the days when the judges ruled . . .” This is an important reference to a time when Israel “did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). It was a cycle of behavior which began with God’s people rebelling against him. God would respond with judgment which most often came in the form of oppression from Israel’s enemies. With the arrival of judgment, God’s people would cry out to him in repentance, and each time—at the end of each cycle—the Lord would send a deliverer to rescue his people—a judge. With the arrival of the judge, Israel would gain relief from God’s judgment until they inevitably repeated the rebellious cycle. This cycle is emblematic of the behavior seen by the first characters mentioned in the book of Ruth—Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons. While it might seem perfectly reasonable for a family to move to another country seeking relief from a famine (Ruth 1:1), there are significant implications at play. The Israel of the Old Testament was the focal point of God’s favor; he set his people apart and gave them the land of promise as a sign of his covenant with them (Genesis 12:5–9). So, for Elimelech to move his family away from God’s provision—even during a period of judgment—in search of something better in a foreign land proved costly. The lesson here is timeless: God’s people *still* wrestle with a sinful nature that convinces them there is greater joy outside the Lord’s provision. Despite our waywardness, the grace of God prevails. Despite Israel’s and Elimelech’s waywardness, God provided for his family, both immediately and ultimately. A redeemer restored his family through catastrophic loss, preserving the family line to bring about the royal line of David and, through David’s line, the King of kings, Jesus Christ (Ruth 4:18–22). God’s grace prevails.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Ruth 1:1–4 & 4:18–22.

In what ways do we search for something better than what God has provided? How can we differentiate between wanting what’s best and being satisfied in the Lord?

Can you recall a time in your life when you made a seemingly poor decision only to see the Lord redeem it in a way you thought not possible? What does this teach us about the Lord?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.