

“Ruth”

6.4.17

Sermon Discussion Questions

1. Today we looked at the book of Ruth. The book, as pastor Jim explained, takes place in a not-so-great time in Israel’s history. Why is that? What has been going on? What is some of the background of the book?
2. A big piece of studying scripture is the opportunity to find ourselves in the story, to see parallels between the characters and us. Did you do that this morning? As you consider where the story takes place, what Israel and these characters are facing, where do you see yourself in the story?
3. The book of Ruth shows us a tremendous turnaround of events in just 4 chapters. Consider what we’ve already discussed regarding the state of affairs for Naomi, Ruth and Israel when we start the story. Now have someone read Ruth 4:13-17. What has happened to the characters, how have their circumstances changed?
4. Pastor Jim pointed out that the important question in the story is how did the circumstances change? What happened? He then pointed out the key word of the book of Ruth, redeem. What is your understanding of the word redeem? What did pastor Jim say about the significance of the word in Ruth and scripture?
5. The end of Ruth’s story points to the beginning of Jesus’ story. God loves us so much that he is willing to pay any price to redeem us. Do you agree with this statement? Read Isaiah 43:1-3 and reflect on how this ties to your own story.
6. Pastor Jim shared a few “big ideas” regarding the book of Ruth and the books of Esther and Mark. He pointed out that redemption doesn’t come through religion but through relationship. He said that our redemption story serves as catalyst for us to serve others and help them experience their own redemption in Jesus. Finally, he said that our redemption stories are only a prelude to the greater redemption God is doing through Jesus in His first coming and the his return. Which of these resonated more with you? Why?

God invites us who have experienced his great love and redemption, his grace, to become agents of grace to those around us. Serving others. Take sometime to pray for each other, praise God for your redemption and ask that he provide ample opportunities to be an agent of grace to someone.