

## “The Rest of the Story”

preached by Bro. Mahlon T. LeCroix on 9/12/2021

Series Title: “Ruth; A Story of Redemption” Main Passage: **Ruth 4**

Opened with a discussion about an old radio newsman named **Paul Harvey**.

- 1) First, we see the **climax** of the story. (vs. 1-12)
  - The midnight rendezvous, while exciting, was not the climax of the story. The climax of the story is figuring out who the **redeemer** will be, Boaz or the unnamed relative with a stronger claim.
  - The relative wanted the land, but rejected it when he learned he would have to marry a widowed **Moabite** named Ruth and raise an heir who would eventually obtain it.
  - The giving of a **shoe** was like signing a legal deed for the land and was shameful.
  - The most likely reason the unnamed relative is unnamed is because one was publicly shunned if they refused to **redeem** a family member. (ref; Deut. 25:5-10)
  - One consistent theme and constant contrast found in the Book of Ruth is between rational **decisions** based on human/worldly wisdom compared to decisions based solely on faith. (ref: Pro. 3:5-6)
- 2) Secondly, we see the **conclusion** of the story. (vs. 13-17)
  - The author hits “fast forward” on the story, because at least 9 months passes by in verse **13** alone.
  - The author fast forwards through the story of Boaz and Ruth, because he is turning the focus back to the main character, who is **Naomi**.
  - **Naomi** is blessed with Obed and her strength, hope, and joy has returned to her.
  - Just because the **Lord** sees you through a severe trial/tribulation and even greatly blesses you after it does not mean you will forget, or no longer mourn loss.
  - **Jesus** promise to us is that while we may/will suffer and experience great loss here, it will eventually be abundantly replaced and more here and/or in eternity. (ref: Joel 2:25; Job; Mark 10:29-30; 2Cor. 4:17; Rom. 8:28)
- 3) Third, we are able to determine the **rest** of the story. (vs. 18-22)
  - While the casual reader and unlearned Christian may be disappointed in the last few verses of Ruth simply because it is a **genealogy** list, it actually shows the believer something truly amazing.
  - The story of **Naomi**, a broken and bitter widow who is redeemed, directly impacts and leads us to the story of King David and ultimately King **Jesus**!
  - According to verse 14, Naomi’s redeemer is the **child** born unto her. Our Redeemer was also a child born unto us all. (ref: Isa. 9:6)
  - **Jesus** is still redeeming the broken, desperate, lost, sick, bitter, etc. If we would simply repent and cast ourselves at His feet. (ref: 1John 1:9)

In closing...

- Most believe fairy tales typically end with the phrase, “And they lived **happily** ever after.”, but they actually end with the words, “The End.”
- As I said in the introduction of this beautiful story, the Book of **Ruth** is no fairy tale.
- The Book of Ruth ends pointing us not to “The End”, but to **eternity** with our Redeemer Jesus Christ!